

Newington Methodist Church

Church Lane, Newington, Sittingbourne, ME9 7JT

News and views for the week commencing 27th February 2022

Whenever someone turns back to the Lord, the veil is removed... to see God's glory"

2Corinthians 3:16-18



Notices

Sunday Worship with Holy Communion will be led by Rev. Robert Zachar. Service starts 9:30 am

Next Sunday Worship 27th February will be led by LP Martin Smith.

Sunday 27th February circuit live stream worship 10:30 will be led by Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet.

Follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GioAWan6qW4>

The next Sunday circuit live stream, 6th March will be led by Bonni Belle Pickard

Dates for your calendar

- **Coffee morning 6th March 10-12 pm.**
- **There will be two options for Lent Bible study**
 - **Lent Bible study on ZOOM.** BECOMING CHURCH, Online Lent Course Tuesdays 7pm via Zoom, different ministers take turn in leading the sessions
 - **Staying Awake Sunday afternoons 2pm via Zoom by Bonni Belle Pickard.** Reflecting and discussions on the book by Rev Tyler Sit's recent book, 'Staying Awake: The Gospel for Change makers'.
- A farewell service for Rev Tony Graff will be on 31st July 4pm at Gravesend

Reflecting on God's word

Exodus 34:29-35; Luke 9:28-36, 2Corinthians 3:12- 4:2

Jesus' Transfiguration is one of the six main blocks that the church tradition uses to take us through the liturgical year. Beginning with Advent and the Birth of Jesus, to the temptation and baptism, the cross, resurrection and ascension and coming of the Holy Spirit. These are 6 main pillars from which our Christian faith is sourced and is made unique. Thomas Aquinas, an early Christian theologian, considered transfiguration as the greatest miracle and foreshow of life in

heaven. (*Wikip.*) The word itself is of Latin origin, widely used in modern language if you can think of some examples.

Luke records how Jesus' divine nature was revealed. An interesting and challenging statement because we believe Jesus was fully human and fully God. The church has held many fierce debates about this in the past. Similar events are recorded in the Bible as we read about Moses or Elijah. The New Testament writings mention that even Satan can appear as an angel of light which is a bit confusing. And most importantly the apostolic writings see Christian life as a journey where a person is transformed from one glory to another and another. How this happens in the light of the recent Conversion therapy legislation is a big contemporary question.

I know that I was transformed when I heard the gospel and my heart was strangely warmed. I felt strongly that the message of the Cross and forgiveness is the truth and the real need of my longing soul and I invited Jesus into my life. That kind of truth had nothing to do with my intelligence or emotions alone. It just hit my whole being, my whole self. I didn't care what everyone around thinks, I knew I had met Jesus in his full light. Perhaps not as those three disciples with all the heavenly voices and glory. But to me it was the encounter with such a light as I had never sensed or imagined and yet there it was.

We can't not see God's glory around us. I mean in creation, nature, science or contemplating on the night skies full of stars. There are so many people you can have a passionate conversation with about the mysteries, wonders and beauty of the work of God surrounding us. But we also need to see God's glory in the gospel message, in the message of forgiveness and in the invitation to become his disciples. In the person of Jesus. This kind of glory is like a pulsing hope in our often difficult lives. Nobody can take it away. An unshakable confidence that I am a child of God, just like Jesus is. I agree with Thomas Aquinas in his statement that transfiguration is the greatest miracle, because it is about meeting the real Jesus. Unfortunately "there are many Jesus's on the religious market" (*quote from R.Zacharias*) but He is the Shepherd who knows his sheep and calls them by name and his sheep know him.

People and places for prayer

We continue to hold each other in prayer and we pray for the mission of our church.

Prayers for Ukraine.

Prayers for people in our church family, Jenny G. and Bernard, Ernie S. , Peter and Beryl W. , Elena M. and her family.

We remember those who died and their loved ones. Audrey G, Margaret S.

Please send news, prayer requests and any other contributions for inclusion in the weekly newsletter to robert.zachar@gmail.com **Bank details for Offerings:** Newington Methodist Church, HSBC Sittingbourne. Sort Code 40 – 42 – 04, Account 70614696. If you prefer to send a cheque contact our church treasurer Chris Ch.