

For the Journey

Feb. 8/24 - Rev. Dave Crawford



(Transfiguration - Mike Moyers, 2019)

“Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.

And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!’ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.”

- Mark 9:2-9.

“I am the Light of the World” is a favourite “modern” hymn for many of we mainliners, both here at Crossfield United and abroad in the wider Church. Composed by Jim Strathdee in 1967, the song has an uplifting tune and powerful words, the chorus itself containing Jesus’ own self-proclamation from John 8:12, *“I am the light of the world... Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”* It is an Epiphany song (January 6th), marking the start of the Epiphany season, which takes its inspiration from the story in Matthew 2 of the three wise men (astrologers or Magi) following an unusual, glimmering star to the place of Jesus’ birth. Epiphany begins with light and it ends with light - the brilliant, dazzling light of transfiguration. The world in Jesus’ era yearned for a light to guide. The world still does today.

The drive up to Crossfield the past couple of days has been dominated by fog, like much of the province. Almost anything can be used in a metaphorical sense, and this week fog serves that purpose. Do you ever get the feeling that the world is in a type of fog? We can’t see too far out in front of us, can’t lock our eyes on the horizon. All we know, all we can see is the confusion and chaos of the present. We know the sunshine is out there, up there somewhere. We hope for the fog to dissipate and the clouds to disperse, so we can see clearly again. Of course there are different ways of seeing.

Thomas Long once shared a story from the life of physicist Neils Bohr, the father of quantum mechanics. Bohr once spoke of his early childhood speculations on the nature of the universe. It happened when he was a child gazing into the fish pond at his family home. For hours on end he would lie beside the pond, watching the fish swimming in the water. One day he realized with a start that the fish he was watching didn’t know that they were being watched. The fish were unaware of any reality outside the pond. Sunlight streaming in from the outside was, to the fish, simply an inner illumination contained within the pond. Even when it rained, the fish saw this not as an event from the outside but only as ripples and splashes enclosed in their environment. Bohr wondered if humans were like the fish in this regard, being acted on in multiple dimensions of reality but aware of only our limited frame of reference.

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What if Sunday worship were the chance to lie down beside life's pond and to realize that what often looks and sounds on any given Monday like events within the pond are actually interventions from another realm? What if Sunday allowed us to get up on Monday morning and to see and hear what is hidden from Monday-only eyes and ears, that God is present and at work in every corner of life?
(Thomas G. Long, Testimony: Talking Ourselves into Being Christian)

There is more going on in God's world than we can possibly see, experience or imagine. Beyond the fog, the clouds, we know the sun's light still shines on us, giving life and vitality to the planet without which we'd perish. Beyond the happenings of our time, the unpredictability of human free will and all the concerning events of our time, God's light in his Son, Our Savior, persists, encourages, comforts, strengthens, and loves.

Thanks be o God.

Grace and Peace.

Rev. Dave