

Sunday 23 Feb 2020 **Transfiguration Sunday**

Bible Reading:- Matthew 17:1-9

“Listen to Him”

It is Transfiguration Sunday. The day in the Christian Calendar when the Lectionary takes one of the three gospel readings about Jesus appearing in his glory before some of his disciples.

After Jesus feeds 5, 000 (Matt Ch14) then 4, 000 (Ch15) he asks his disciples who people think he is (Ch16.) They reply that some people think he’s John the Baptist, others that he’s Elijah or some other prophet, and then Jesus asks his disciples who *they* think he is.

Peter answers him that He is the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

Then follows the first time we see Jesus predict his death. Followed by telling the disciples that, if they want to be his disciples, they must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow him.

So, about a week later, Jesus takes his close circle of three, Peter, James and John, for a mountain-top experience. (Matt 17:1-9.)

On the mountain, these three see Jesus face change shape and he appears all dazzling white talking with Moses and Elijah, who represent for Israel The Law and The Prophets.

The episode is reminiscent of Moses returning down the mountain, with his face radiant, after encountering God; of the cloud which led the Israelites to the Promised Land; and of Jesus’ baptism where God spoke, saying Jesus was his son.

At his transfiguration, God added, “Listen to Him.”

... .. Alan Findlay