

St. Andrew's Anglican Church
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**AUGUST
2015**

The Very Reverend
Frank M. Levi, M.A.
Rector

The Rt. Reverend
Franklin H. Sellers, D.D.
Rector Emeritus

Rev. Derrick Hassert,
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**THE
TRANSFIGURATION**

(August 6 is the date set on the Church Calendar for the remembrance of the Transfiguration of Our Lord. The following are comments by Bishop J.C. Ryle on the account found in St. Matthew 17:1-13)

THESE verses contain one of the most remarkable events in our Lord's earthly ministry, the event commonly called the transfiguration. The order in which it is recorded is beautiful and instructive. The latter part of the last chapter showed us the cross: here we are graciously allowed to see something of the coming reward.

There are some mysterious things, no doubt, in the vision here described. It must needs be so. We are yet in the body: our senses are conversant with gross and material things; our ideas and perceptions about glorified bodies and dead saints must necessarily be vague and imperfect. Let us content ourselves with endeavouring to mark out the practical lessons which the transfiguration is meant to teach us.

In the first place, we have in these verses *a striking pattern of the glory in which Christ and His people will appear when He comes the second time.*

There can be little question that this was one main object of this wonderful vision. It was meant to encourage the disciples, by giving them a glimpse of good things yet to come. That "face shining as the sun," and that "raiment white as the light," were intended to give the disciples

some idea of the majesty in which Jesus will appear to the world, when He comes the second time, and all His saints with Him. The corner of the veil was lifted up, to show them their Master's true dignity. They were taught that if He did not yet appear to the world in the guise of a King, it was only because the time for putting on His royal apparel was not yet come.

It is good for us to have the coming glory of Christ and His people deeply impressed on our minds. We are sadly apt to forget it. There are few visible indications of it in the world: "We see not yet all things put under" our Lord's feet (*Heb. 2:8*). Sin, unbelief, and superstition abound. Thousands are practically saying, "We will not have this man to reign over us". It doth not yet appear what His people shall be: their crosses, their tribulations, their weaknesses, their conflicts are all manifest enough; but there are few signs of their future reward. Let us beware of giving way to doubts in this matter: let us silence such doubts by reading over the history of the transfiguration. There is laid up for Jesus, and all that believe on Him, such glory as the heart of man never conceived.

In the second place, we have in these verses, *an unanswerable proof of the resurrection of the body, and life after death.* We are told that Moses and Elijah appeared visibly in glory with Christ; they were seen in a bodily form. They were heard talking with our Lord. Fourteen hundred and eighty years had rolled round, since Moses died and was buried; more than nine hundred years had passed away, since Elijah "went up by a whirlwind into heaven:" yet here they are seen alive by Peter, James, and John!

Let us lay firm hold on this part of the vision. It deserves close attention. We must all feel, if we ever think at all, that the state of the dead is a wonderful and

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mysterious subject. One after another we bury them out of our sight: we lay them in their narrow beds, and see them no more, and their bodies become dust. But will they really live again? Shall we really see them anymore? Will the grave really give back the dead at the last day? These are questions that will occasionally come across the minds of some, in spite of all the plainest statements in the Word of God.

Now we have in the transfiguration the clearest evidence that the dead will rise again. We find two men appearing on earth, in their bodies, who had long been separate from the land of the living, and in them we have a pledge of the resurrection of all. All that have ever fallen asleep in Christ will be found in safe keeping, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs, down to the humblest servant of God in our own day. Their spirits live as surely as we live ourselves, and will appear here after in glorified bodies, as surely as Moses and Elijah in the mount. These are indeed solemn thoughts!

In the last place, we have in these verses *a remarkable testimony to Christ's infinite superiority over all that are born of woman.*

This is a point which is brought out strongly by the voice from heaven, which the disciples heard. Peter, bewildered by the heavenly vision, and not knowing what to say, proposed to build three tabernacles, one for Christ, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. He seemed, in fact, to place the law giver and the prophet side by side with his divine Master, as if all three were equal. At once, we are told, the proposal was rebuked in a marked manner. A cloud covered Moses and Elijah, and they were no more seen. A voice at the same time came forth from the cloud, repeating the solemn words, made use of at our Lord's

baptism, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased: hear ye Him." That voice was meant to teach Peter that there was One there far greater than Moses or Elijah. Moses was a faithful servant of God; Elijah was a bold witness for the truth: but Christ was far above either one or the other. He was the Saviour to whom law and prophets were continually pointing; He was the true Prophet, whom all were commanded to hear. Moses and Elijah were great men in their day; but Peter and his companions were to remember that in nature, dignity, and office, they were far below Christ. He was the true sun: they were the stars depending daily on His light. He was the root: they were the branches. He was the Master: they were the servants. Their goodness was all derived: His was original and His own.

The best of men are only men at their very best. Patriarchs, prophets, and apostles, martyrs, Fathers, Reformers, Puritans, all, all are sinners, who need a Saviour: holy, useful, honourable in their place, but sinners after all. They must never be allowed to stand between us and Christ. He alone is the Son, in whom the Father is well pleased;" He alone is sealed and appointed to give the bread of life; He alone has the keys in His hands: "God over all, blessed for ever" (*Rom. 9:5*). Let us take heed that we hear His voice, and follow Him; let us value all religious teaching just in proportion as it leads us to Jesus. The sum and substance of saving religion is to "hear Christ."

COMING EVENTS



YOUTH MEETINGS

Aug. 2, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6

EPISCOPAL VISIT CHANGED TO OCTOBER 18th

Bishop Royal U. Grote will be with us for the Annual Episcopal Visit in Oct. rather than Sept. Please remark your calendars!

SUNDAY SCHOOL Resumes Sept. 6 at 9:30 a.m. followed by the "Rally Day" CHURCH PICNIC after Church

WORK DAY Sept. 19th 9:00-11:00 a.m.

CHURCH FUND-RAISER Here on the Church Grounds on Sat., Sept. 26th starting at noon (See insert)

MISSIONARIES OF THE MONTH Please pray for Matt & Sora Colvin and their family ministering in the Philippines.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Anne Robertson, Layomi
Osilaja, Rev. Frank Levi,
Florence Auman, Rev. Phil
Tjoelker, Adam Sellers,
Robby Robertson, Joan
Reagan, Dr. Leke Adeofe

HOG HAVEN FUND-RAISER

 For: **ST. ANDREW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**
at the Church, 18001 94th Ave., Tinley Park 708-614-7404

Saturday, September 26, 2015 beginning at noon

**“Best Pork Chops!” from Hog Haven
Adults pick “Famous Huge Pork Chop or Chicken”
Includes Three Sides. Let us know which you choose!**

**With \$25 Adult/Youth Tickets you get FREE
Hamburgers & Hot Dogs for children (under 12). [But,
\$25 if children want chicken or pork chop instead.]**

with

Country Gospel Concert

**Pal & Family “Serving Jesus In Song”
Featuring, Singer/Guitarist, William Ray Garrison**

**Sign sheet TODAY to commit to \$25 Tickets!
Need enough commitments to make the Fund-Raiser
profitable. Get friends and family to buy tickets, too.**

**Make checks to: ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH
Specify for: Hog Haven Fund-Raiser**

Need total ticket count by Sept. 5 of \$25 Tickets & Free Tickets

AUGUST 2015 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9th Sunday after Trinity MP 9:30 a.m. HC 10:30 a.m.	3	4	5	6 The Transfiguration of Our Lord	7	8
10th Sunday after Trinity MP 9:30 a.m. HC 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour	10	11	12	13	14	15
11th Sunday after Trinity MP 9:30 a.m. HC 10:30 a.m.	17	18	19	20	21 9 a.m. Choir Practice Resumes	22
12th Sunday after Trinity MP 9:30 a.m. HC 10:30 a.m. Guild Meeting	24 St. Bartholomew the Apostle	25	26	27	28 9 a.m. Choir Practice	29
13th Sunday after Trinity MP 9:30 a.m. HC 10:30 a.m.	31					