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Weekly Letter - 19 February 2023

Matthew 17.1-9

**The exciting challenges that the Transfiguration
reveals to us – everyday!**

Like the three disciples who accompanied Jesus up the mountain, you too are promised that you will witness the coming of the Kingdom of God, “in power”.

As with the disciples who ascend Mount Tabar with Jesus you too are promised that you will also see the glory of God’s Kingdom shining out of Jesus.

In the same way in which Peter, James and John discover that Jesus himself is the living Word of God, you too have had this revealed to you.

And as these disciples discover, these discoveries that you encounter with ‘The Truth’, it doesn’t end there. Here comes the more difficult part. Like the disciples you also know that there is no glory without suffering. For as St Paul proclaims, and as the disciples discovered, “We preach Christ crucified”. For the Passion of Christ is a necessary step to glory, and it is only through these seemingly opposite truths that you can more fully enter into the mystery of Jesus. This is perhaps one of the most difficult truths to fully absorb.

For every generation of seekers of truth, suffering and glory is never easy to absorb. It must surely remind all of us why being faithful in speaking and listening to God, it is necessary to study, and drawing upon the rich Christian tradition. This is so vital for each one of us.

Hopefully, with Lent just around the corner, you will once again have desire to explore the full mystery of Christ’s passion and journey to glory. For He is the source of God’s eternal truth.

Stephen

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom, will be led by Mr Roy Morgan
Bible Reading: Romans 8-28-39.

Cycle of Prayer in the Swansea Region – we will pray for Temple, Gowerton.

Tea/Coffee Rota – Alison

Tea and Chat/Warm Hub – Tuesday, 14th - 2 pm.

Please Note: after the end of February Tea and Chat will continue on the first two Tuesdays of the month from 2-4 pm.

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, 25th February
Quiet Day - 10.00 am-2 pm

Call in to the Church for a time of personal reflection.

Prayer Stations available to help your prayer time,
plus opportunity to sign up to prayers for the Church

Our Journey through Lent

During our Lent Bible Studies this year, we will explore some key themes that throw light on our journey through this testing and challenging period of the Christian Year. Our explorations will be set within the contemporary context here in Wales and the UK but also worldwide. When we hear so much still about wars and conflicts, poverty and inequality, oppression and exclusion on the basis of gender or sexuality, racial identity or religion what does it mean to be followers of Christ today?

There will be THREE sessions. They will be held on Zoom at 7 pm on Tuesday evenings and can be accessed using the Sunday Worship Zoom link. The dates are as follows:

Session 1 - 28th February

The Beginning – Who are we and what are we called to be?

Session 2 – 14th March

What does it mean to be challenged to be obedient?

Session 3 - 21st March

'Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven' – What does it mean today to call Jesus 'Our Saviour?'

On Monday, 6 February, an initial magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit in Southern Turkey. A second 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck 9 hours later, with aftershocks following.

Christian Aid has been working with local partners across the region for decades and responding to the Syria crisis since 2012.

The response to humanitarian needs in Ukraine has been remarkable. We must also live up to our commitments to those impacted by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

'The scenes from this disaster are heartbreaking. And even before this devastating earthquake, we knew over four million needed aid in Northwest Syria alone. We are hopeful that the British public will show the same spirit of solidarity and compassion that we saw in the aftermath of the invasion of Ukraine a year ago. Every prayer, every gift, every action brings hope to people hit by disaster. By joining us, you can help people in need rebuild their lives.

Patrick Watt, CEO of Christian Aid.

Prayer for the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal

God of time and space, we cry to you for your children – our neighbours – in southern Turkey and northern Syria, following the earthquake that has devastated hundreds of lives. Only they and you know what it is like to experience such trauma in the middle of the night.

We give thanks for the aid that is already being given and for the promises of help that have been made by many nations.

Comfort, we pray,

those who are trapped in collapsed buildings;

those who have lost loved ones;

those who wait for news and

those digging through rubble to save others.

Grant the gift of hope so that those caught between life and death know that you are with them and that others are ready to support them as they seek a future that overshadows the experiences of today.

We ask this in the Name of Jesus, who endured so much for love of them.

Amen.

If you wish to donate to this appeal by cheque it should be made payable to Christ Well. If you are paying cash please indicate who you are so that Gift Aid can be collected.

Such Love

(Lectionary Readings Exodus 24.12-18: Psalm 2: Matthew 17.1-9)

God who is love,
the beauty of your love takes my breath away.

You speak love –
 'this is my beloved Son' -
And hold us close, beloved too.

You call us by name, whispering
'Do not fear
I am with you –
Always with you.'

To the heights of the mountain
And the depths of the seas
And the breadth of eternity
Is the wonder of your love.

So, I cannot imagine your love
 as a devouring flame;
I cannot make sense of the image
 of soon-kindled wrath;
I don't believe you issue terrifying threats
 from the depths of your fury.
It doesn't make sense to me
 It doesn't make sense.

Because you are love-
Live beyond limits,
Love beyond reason –
And such love simply takes my breath away.

Karen Campbell (URC Prayer Handbook 2023)

