



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

February 17-23, 2020

Sermons by Rev. Doug Forrester (8:30, 9am) and Reveille Youth (11am)

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

YOUTH SUNDAY

<p>Notes from sermon on 2/16</p>	<p>Things to Pray For This Week:</p>
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Family Focus Questions (before sermon):

Why does Jesus instruct the disciples to keep quiet about what they had seen “until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead” (Matthew 17:9)?

3 Questions for small groups (after sermon):

1. Name a time when you have been surprised by what you have learned about God.
2. Name a time when God did not conform to your expectations.
3. Why is there temptation for us to imagine God as we wish for God to be?

Monday, February 17: Read Matthew 17:1-9

When was the last time God really surprised you? Appeared to you in a form you weren't expecting? Said something to you that didn't reflect your underlying assumptions, political beliefs, carefully scheduled priorities, or 10-year plan? Are we listening for the voice of God in places outside of our comfort zone? Will we recognize God if we encounter God in that different form?

This week, we celebrate both Transfiguration Sunday and Youth Sunday, with Lead Pastor Doug Forrester preaching at the 8:30 and 9:00 services and a few of our finest Seniors in high school delivering the message at 11am. What are we expecting? Are we ready to be surprised?

By contrast, one thing that is true about idols is this: they never surprise you. They are static, and they conform to our expectations. By contrast, God is dynamic, always on the move, doing things that do surprise us, leading us into new life we may have never dared imagine. What idols might we be worshipping instead of the true God that transcends our boundaries and understanding?

Tuesday, February 18: Read Exodus 24:12-18

Yesterday's scripture described the transfiguration of Christ – a sight that certainly startled Peter, James, and John and upturned their image and understanding of Jesus, leaving behind many questions in the process. Today's reading describes a different transfiguration: one where Moses was dramatically and visibly changed through being in God's presence. Do either of these phenomena happen to us in our religious walk? Or do we get exactly what we expect? Are we willing to open ourselves up to correction, conviction, disruption, and confusion so we can more truly experience God and more fully experience transfigurative change?

Wednesday, February 19: Read 2 Peter 1:16-18

"For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty." (NIV) Our scripture today causes us to look at "transfiguration" from a different angle. Do we sometimes change the story and face of God to be more palatable or entertaining? Do we gravitate to others' "cleverly devised stories" (or our own) instead of the plain-speaking truth? Do we also downplay or rescript our (or others') encounters with God, turning them into coincidence, imagination, insanity, or inconvenience? How can we allow ourselves to be changed by God into God's image instead of changing God into our own image? How can we choose the plain truth instead of the good story?

Thursday, February 20: Read 2 Peter 1:19-21

Things look very different in the light than they do in the dark. In the dark, we don't see the scars or the dangers. Imperfections and deceptions can hide in the shadows, fooling us into following them, loving them, and nurturing them. Then someone turns the light on, and their appearance totally changes. Sometimes that light is shined on us. Today's scripture describes true prophesy...speaking for God...as a "completely reliable" act free from one's "own interpretation of things" that shines light in a dark place. How do we behave when faced with unfiltered and unadulterated truth? In what shadows might we be operating or even worshipping? Are we ready for the new faces we will see in the light? Are we willing to let God shine that light on us? What might happen? How could that change us for the better?

Friday, February 21: Read Psalm 99

"Great is the Lord in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations" says the Psalm today. Is the God we worship and proclaim reflective of "all nations"? Do we allow room for the images and worship of God exhibited in Asian, Latino, African, Middle Eastern, and indigenous cultures? Or does God simply have a long flowing white beard and blue eyes? This weekend, let us challenge ourselves to experience different visages of God as witnessed and expressed by other cultures and perspectives. How does it feel? Does it change anything? Shouldn't it?

Saturday, February 22: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: 2 Peter 1:16

"For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty."
(NRSV)

Sunday, February 23: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of Common Confession (8:30): *Glorious God, you are all wisdom and a lamp to our feet, yet we fail to listen to you and neglect to follow your guidance. Forgive us, heal us, and lead us on, that we may walk in your ways and be happy in your refuge; in Jesus our Christ we pray. Amen.*