

## **Barre Congregational Church**

February 11, 2024: A Pastoral Message by Pastor Margaret Keyser

~ **Transfiguration Sunday**~

***“The veil over Jesus Christ is lifted.”***

Our services can be found on our website at [www.barrechurch.com](http://www.barrechurch.com) and Facebook page.

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### **Scripture Reading: Mark 9 verses 2-9**

#### **I. Introduction:**

When we experience difficulties in life, an illness, worry about something at work, at home, issues with money, and so forth, we feel so relieved when the light breaks through and we receive good news and things begin to look better. Sometimes we receive messages in different forms that illuminate our situation or encourage us to keep the faith and hope that things will change. These messages or interventions are moments of light that we desire to hold onto, and wish it could remain for a long time, so we can experience the feeling of joy and peace of mind always.

#### **II. God lifted the veil to glorify the Son:**

The Transfiguration occurrence at its core shows the true identity of Jesus Christ. The veil over His identity is lifted the moment the voice of God came through the clouds, saying “This is My Son, whom I love. Listen to Him!” If any of the disciples were still in doubt about who Jesus truly was, then their doubts were put at ease through this experience at the top of the mountain. Mark recounted how Jesus' physical appearance was transformed into a remarkable sight when His face glowed like the sun and His clothes were whiter than any cloth anyone in the world could bleach. This was the unveiling of the Divine Glory of Jesus Christ by God. In the previous Chapter Peter made his confession to Jesus that He was the Christ, but here he would see more than what he thought he knew.

The three disciples would also observe the appearance of Moses and Elijah, who both witnessed the manifestations of God on the mountains in the Old Testament. Moses himself had the incredible experience of being in the clouds on Mount Sinai for six days, after God appeared to him in Exodus 24 v 16 giving him instructions to provide to the people of

Israel. Their work to lead the people was meant to bring them closer to God, but they would also be met with resistance from the people of Israel. However, their experience as leaders of the people was that God always showed up whenever they needed help. Now it appears as if they were granting the baton to the Son of God who would continue the work they and many others began. However, He would fulfill it in His special capacity as the Son of God, who is now revealed to them by God on the highest mountain. He too would be rejected by the people like they did, and He would die in the worst way ever, but He would rise again on the third day, maintaining His glory, which we see here in His Transfiguration.

What an amazing experience for Peter, James, and John to witness this amazing event. Not knowing what to say, Peter offered to build them three tents so they could stay there for a while longer. In a flash, Moses and Elija disappeared, leaving them alone in the presence of Christ, the glorified Son of God who confirmed for them that it is indeed Him, but they were not to talk about it until He had fulfilled His mission on earth.

### **III. Conclusion:**

The Transfiguration event reminds us how special the Son of God is, the One who has the power to change the world, who inspires us, encourages us and helps us in our journey in life, and everything we go through. When He calls, and we follow Him, we have the opportunity to learn from Him about how to be and live in this broken world, how to be instruments of change like Him was. We all go through challenging moments in life, and we need to be reminded that we are not alone, but that God through the glorified Son of God is with us through it all. The Transfiguration also leads us into the period of Lent, when we remember how Jesus prepared Himself for the journey to the cross. It is a period of self-reflection, of sacrifice and prayer, during which we surrender ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit within us, and to remember How the Son of God gave Himself for the world and its salvation. It is a time of renewal of the soul and to be connected to God in a very special and intimate way. May God prepare us today and the days ahead during this period of Lent to be closer to God and to hear what God has to say to us. Amen.