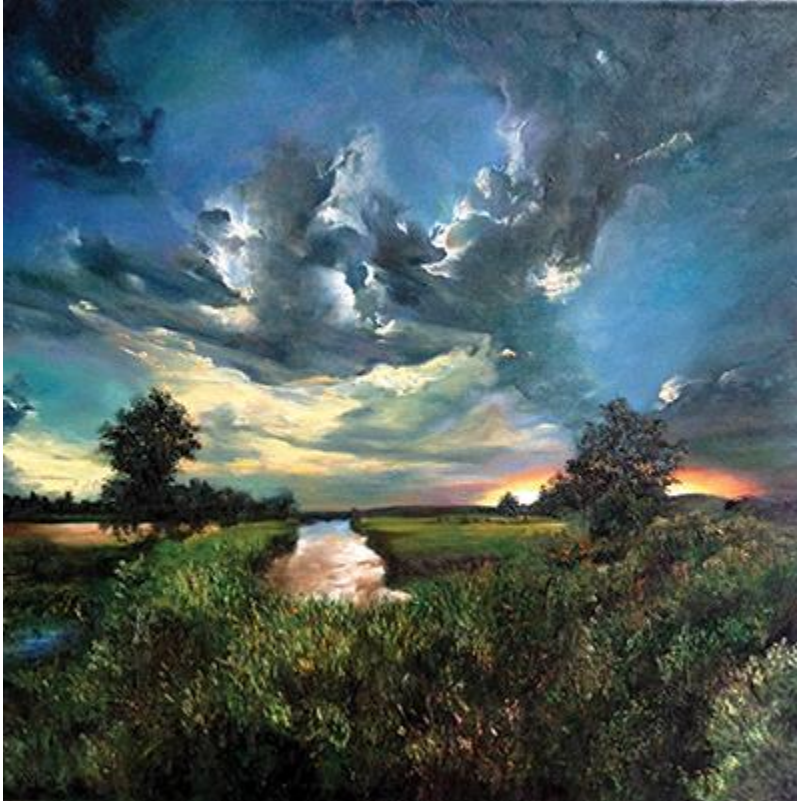




# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

**THIS SUNDAY January 21 & BEYOND”**

## “TRANSITION”



The Gospel lesson that we will hear being read at church on Sunday has a lot to do with what can be called “transition.” Not just “change”, but all the things that can happen when change takes place. You could say you changed your favorite color from white to green. You could say that your boss changed your work assignment from this to that. You could say, “Then we changed pastors.” All those describe the “what”, and maybe the “when.” But they don't

describe the “how” or “why” or the details of moving from one to the other. That would be “transition.”

In the first part of the Gospel (the Good News) reading, we hear that John the Baptizer was arrested, and that after that took place Jesus came to the region of Galilee (up by the Sea of Galilee) proclaiming the good news of God. He is quoted as saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near....” Here is a massive change in the voice proclaiming Good News. It was John, and now it is Jesus. Jesus makes it clear that the change was planned, and that this was the time. John knew it was coming, and said so publicly; Jesus knew it was coming, and went to where John had been baptizing in order to, if you will, pass the baton. You should know that it wasn't just change for Jesus and for John. This change affected each and every one of John's followers.

Don't you wish that every time change took place in your life you could have seen it coming and planned on it? Even if, as in the case of John, the transition wasn't so nice? And what about those disciples of John the baptizer, who mostly didn't seem too happy about this change up, even if John warned them it was coming?!

And that is the meaning of the phrase, “change can be hard.” There is a transition. How have you handled such moments? Especially the times of change that you DIDN'T see coming, or didn't WANT to see coming?

The second part of the reading is again about change and transition. In one sense it is a happy part of the transition for John's disciples. In this case Jesus is calling men to follow him, and some of those in the story used to be John's disciples. So there is the story of transition for them, from sad and perhaps confused regarding John's ending up in prison, but now following exactly the person John pointed to in the kingdom's relay. Again, though, there are others in the story. John and James will leave their fishing boat – with their father in it – and immediately begin following Jesus. There's a huge change for Zebedee and the family business! Unfortunately, we don't hear the rest of that transition story for Zebedee. We do know that their mom followed along later with them, as they followed Jesus. That was part of her transition story.

Change can be difficult for us. This simple Gospel story helps us know that these same issues and concerns and emotions and difficulties are not new, that God knows of them in our lives. And yet God calls us to make changes, and to move through the transition to match his will for us. That means that we somehow end up being in line with what he wants for us, not necessarily what WE think is where we should be or end up. And that would be a successful, Godly, transition.

The question then becomes how we traverse that transition, no matter what kind of change is taking place in our lives. We have to ask “the how” because - I think you'll agree-- not all change is good. And not every transition is without risk. The answer from the entire Bible, including this short and simple story from the Gospel of Mark, is to keep our eyes upon Jesus:. John the baptizer did, with Jesus foremost in his mind and soul even when he was in prison; the disciples did at the sea of Galilee as they made a change that would mean moving away from their father.

The second part of the answer is while you are keeping your eyes on Jesus, you are evaluating, considering, challenging who you are as God would want you to be. The purpose of this is so that in transition from one thing to the next you are setting things aside, and taking things on, that bring you in line with what God wants from you and for you when you get to that new place. As difficult as it might be in transition, then, it will still be a successful one, and to God's glory, and your maturity as one of his.

Father Rob Eaton, Interim Rector

## CALENDAR

SUNDAY: First Sunday after Christmas

8:00a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue*—

*Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.*

MONDAY: 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SATURDAY 7:00pm - Willan West 2018 celebrating the music of Healey Willan  
Votive Mass sung by the Willan Collective directed by Ruben Valenzuela in All Saints' sanctuary