



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

Our Vision: *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

THIS SUNDAY February 14 & BEYOND

A Still Small Voice



Movies and TV series will have us believe that the manifestation of transcendent powers is always accompanied by flashing lights, deafening noises, tremors, strong winds or the like. In fact, this resonates with some Bible passages, particularly those that refer to Moses and the way God manifested to him in the sacred mountain. These divine

manifestations are known as theophanies.

One passage in the Second Book of Kings presents a totally different perspective though. It refers to Elijah's encounter with God at Mount Horeb, another name for Mount Sinai, the mountain where Moses was given the Law for God's people. In this account, the writer deliberately preludes Elijah's actual encounter with God with the phenomena that usually signaled theophanies. There was a great wind, an earthquake, and a fire, but the writer specifically states that God was not present in any of these. And then there is a still small voice, or a sound of sheer silence, as some other translations render the expression.

This still small voice is what clearly makes Elijah recognize God's presence. He immediately covers his face reverently and waits for God's instructions to him. God speaks to him within this sheer silence.

This last Sunday after Epiphany brings us the Gospel passage of Jesus' transfiguration. The three synoptic gospels tell this story, and our church lectionaries always end this season with this account. It is the culmination of Jesus' manifestation or revelation as the divine Son.

We might think that Jesus' transfiguration is more in line with the usual theophanies, especially because of the dazzling glorious light that was manifested in Jesus. It may be. But we need to remember that this was mostly a private event. It was meant for the innermost circle of disciples, the three that accompanied Him on special occasions. There was a vision of Moses and Elijah, the greatest representatives of the Law and the Prophets, who had also had theophanies on the Sacred Mount, and had been given divine instructions to follow. And there was the divine voice that repeated what Jesus had heard on His baptism, plus a clear injunction to these three disciples, "Listen to Him".

Being in the glorious presence of the divine is an overwhelming experience. It can give rise to rash reactions, as it did in the case of Peter. He simply expressed his desire to remain in that blissful state for as long as possible. But this was just a moment to be cherished and remembered. They had a taste of Jesus' glory and mission. The presence of Moses and Elijah and their conversation about what Jesus had to undergo was the indication that Jesus was the recapitulation and fulfillment of Holy Scripture. He was the Word made flesh, and His voice needed to be heeded.

Although the transfiguration of Jesus has often been interpreted as a foretaste of His glorious Resurrection, it can also be seen as the presence that always is and we fail to see. The transfiguration was much more about the disciples than about Jesus. It was their inner eyes and ears that needed to be transformed to see and hear the truth about the identity of the one they had been following.

Likewise, we, His present-day followers, need to be transformed to perceive God's constant presence in us and in all others. And in a world that is characterized by so many blinding artificial lights, so much noise and misleading voices, and other phenomena that try to emulate and feign the authentic theophanies, it becomes imperative that we make a pause in our frantic daily turmoil, and turn to the still

small voice, to the sound of sheer silence within, so we can perceive Our Lord's Presence and heed His voice.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Last Sunday after Epiphany
2 Kings 19:9-18 Psalm 27:5-11 2 Peter 1:16-21 Mark 9:2-9

CALENDAR

Note: Each Sunday we will have a Zoom meeting for our Sunday Mass whether it is held in the courtyard or the church. If the service is held in the church because of inclement weather only the rector, acolyte, lector, organist and solo quartet may be present. **The service time has been moved to 10am for a warmer environment in the courtyard each Sunday.**

SUNDAY The Last Sunday after Epiphany
10:00am Mass (See note above)
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

TUESDAY Noon Mass in All Saints' courtyard

WEDNESDAY Ash Wednesday Mass in the courtyard at noon with disposition of ashes

FRIDAY Stations of the Cross in the courtyard at Noon

SUNDAY The First Sunday in Lent
10:00am Mass (See note above)
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
www.allsaintschurch.org