



## Wednesday Prayer

### The Transfiguration of our Lord – Listen, Beloveds

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. Mark 9:2-9

The Transfiguration is one of those surreal stories of the Bible. The disciples were terrified, they didn’t know what to say, they hear God’s voice telling them to listen to Jesus, and then they’re sent back down the mountain. Peter jumps into problem solving mode offering to set up their dwellings and stay. But God intervenes – listen to my Son, the Beloved.

These past few weeks have included experiences of fear, pain, grief, and anger for some of my beloveds, and I have thought at times “This is getting to be too much” so I jump in and try to solve it all. And then I remember God’s voice telling me to listen. Listen to the one who is called the Beloved and who calls each one of us beloved.

I’ve been reading Osheta Moore’s book “Dear White Peacemakers” and I love the way she so graciously calls us into our belovedness as a way to enter into anti-racism work. This informs our work to prevent sexual exploitation and trafficking, dismantling systems and structures that have marginalized some communities, making them more vulnerable to exploitation. She expresses,

*“I often wonder why Jesus began his ministry standing in line with the poor, the outcasts, the forgotten, the ones riddled with internalized hatred. The Spirit of God, the Spirit that calls us the Beloved, is the Spirit that makes us whole. There is no clearer way to discern the presence of God’s Spirit than to identify the movements of unification, healing, restoration, and reconciliation.”*

Our work to share resources and support one another in faith communities may not be considered “mountaintop” experiences like that of the Transfiguration, and yet these daily actions may be just what is required of us. Coming down the mountain, being with each other, holding each other up.

**God of mountaintops and valleys, we come to you with our pains, fears, and loving concern for others. We are each other’s beloved. Help us to hear the cries of those in need and come together to hold one another in your loving care. Amen.**