

The rev. Karen Millard
Squamish United Church

February 14, 2010

Readings:

Exodus 34:29-35

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36

Ordinary Miracle

Bruce Prewer wrote this poem

TRANSFIGURATION.

It could have been on Mt Wellington
or on St Mary's Peak,
up there with Christ something went on
which words could never speak.

It could have been Liz, or Jack or Fay,
Grechen, Nardoo or Ruth,
with Peter, James and John that day
when they saw blazing truth.

It could have been an Aussie voice
that spoke to them like thunder:
"Listen to him, my chosen Son,"
and left them dazed with wonder.

It could now be at scenic Bright
or maybe Botony Bay,
that human souls still see the light
of Love that's here to stay.

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"I know we might think of the Transfiguration as a very supernatural thing, one of those kinds of things that happened back in biblical times, but definitely not the kind of thing that happens anymore, in our lives, or in our world. Back when God used to suspend the laws of nature every once in a while just to make a really important point...but not like our lives, not in life as the post-Enlightenment, scientific world knows it today."¹

¹ Huey, Kate "Astounding Glory" www.ucc.org/worship/samuel/february-14-2010

If you are like me you have no trouble diving into the beautiful stories of Jesus feeding thousands, and having children sitting on his lap. I imagine if I were walking with Jesus he would have sat and ate with me as a woman and a sinner. I would have liked to hear him preach and experience his healing touch. But this holy transfiguration moment is something I don't know what I would have done with, this experience doesn't easily fit into my every day experience.

Perhaps it is because we are living in a more scientific time. As bishop Julian Gordy says "The job of science is to remove the mystery from the world. The job of faith is to show us the holy mystery hiding everywhere."² Thomas Merton said "We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent, and God is shining through it all the time."

Every time I think or speak of transfiguration I find a song in my head. Perhaps it is because this moment in scripture brings me to a moment of awe. A moment when I am reminded to recognize God's glory. And music is one of the things that helps me do that. The words and melody help to express the wonder and awe.

Like this

"I hope you never lose your sense of wonder, you get your fill to eat
But always keep that hunger. May you never take one single breath for granted
God forbid love ever leave you empty handed. I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean. Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens. Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance and when you get the choice to sit it out or dance. I hope you dance."

Wonder to me is what this moment is about. Awe. Seeing Jesus and God again for the first time. And taking notice. Recognizing the holy presence right in front of us. At all times - no matter what is happening around us or within our lives.

This moment in scripture happens right after Peter, James and John were having a conversation with Jesus about who he is. As we know some thought he was John the Baptist, others Elijah or another prophet risen from the dead. But when Jesus asks who do YOU say that I am Peter responds, "You are the messiah."

And unexpectedly instead of saying "that's right" Jesus tells them to keep this quiet because things are going to get difficult for him and his followers very soon. He tells them that he is going to suffer and die and be raised again. And anyone who follows him will be in danger.

It is right after this difficult conversation that Jesus goes up the mountain with his three friends to pray. And as they pray they experience more of God than they could have imagined. They get a glory of God moment like Moses did on the mountaintop. And like we do when we have a moment we cannot explain they didn't know what to do with it. Peter wanted to build a tent and hold onto the moment instead of just allowing the mystery to transform him. And although he

² Bishop H. Julian Gordy - Ordinary Holiness www.textweek.com

was trying to be helpful sometimes those of us who are doers need to simply be and listen, and take notice.

We may even find that as we begin to take notice of the miracles of God with us we will have to cover our eyes from the glorious light. When we see the beauty of the holy surrounding us we might find our breath taken away. As we are still and come to know God we may recognize all we can do is stop and pray.

“If we pay attention, we might come to see that our communities are holy. We might come to know that our world is holy, that God permeates every inch of it. We might come to know that we are holy, that God dwells not in a tabernacle but in us. We might come to know that our neighbor is holy, the place where we are most likely to meet and to serve the Mysterious and Holy Incarnate One.”³

I admit I have been caught up in the beauty of watching people come together in powerful ways this week. Whether it was at the torch run, or ceremonies, or cheering with Canadian pride, I saw the kind of coming together of people that the spirit longs for. The electric energy was palpable and for most contagious.

What I believe however is that the miracles of coming together - of light, peace and beauty, of God’s creation are always with us. I was deeply moved at the Opening Ceremony when sarah McLachlan sang and since that moment I have been reminded with awe of the miracles that surround us every day.

Listen and we pray.

³ IBID

Its not that usual when everything is beautiful
Its just another ordinary miracle today

The sky knows when its time to snow
You dont need to teach a seed to grow
Its just another ordinary miracle today

Life is like a gift they say
Wrapped up for you everyday
Open up and find a way
To give some of your own

Isnt it remarkable?
Like every time a raindrop falls
Its just another ordinary miracle today

Birds in winter have their fling
And always make it home by spring
Its just another ordinary miracle today

When you wake up everyday
Please dont throw your dreams away
Hold them close to your heart
Cause we are all a part
Of the ordinary miracle

Ordinary miracle
Do you want to see a miracle?

Its seems so exceptional
Things just work out after all
Its just another ordinary miracle today

The sun comes up and shines so bright
It disappears again at night
Its just another ordinary miracle today

