

Stockton Road Church News February 2024



Mark 12: 30-31

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your mind, and with all your strength, and you shall
love your neighbour as yourself”.*

We are a union of Presbyterian and Congregational churches at the heart of Sunderland city life, growing from a past rich in mission and hospitality. We embrace this heritage utilising the Five Marks of Mission to guide and enable us to take forward current opportunities for mission and service.

Mark 9: 2-9. The Transfiguration.

Reflection

(Lectionary Reading for 11th-17th February)

Six days after he's taught them about his mission, three of Jesus' disciples are given a glimpse of his past and future glory. The word used to describe the complete change that comes over Jesus is the word from which we get *metamorphosis*. The words recall Daniel 7:9, indicating that Jesus is glorious indeed, since in Daniel the words used are the 'Ancient One' (a name for God) rather than the Son of Man.

This account of the transfiguration is told entirely from the disciples' perspective: what they saw and how they reacted. They see Jesus and two towering Old Testament figures – Elijah and Moses – talking together. While these two could represent the Law and the Prophets, the sweep of Israel's story so far, it is more likely that they are seen as the 'deathless ones', those who Jewish-inspired hope associated with the coming of God's kingdom. This becomes clear in verses 11-13.

Peter starts rambling because he's scared stiff and doesn't know what to make of it all. One thing's for sure, this is not a time for erecting tents! It is possible he thinks that the suffering has been by-passed and the glory has unexpectedly arrived for good. It is God who clarifies things. In the cloud – a common image of his presence – God's

voice restates for the disciples what was said only to Jesus at his baptism (1:10-11). The one they've followed for the past year is so much greater than everyone who's come before him – even the Old Testament giants present on the mountain. He is God's Son. So, the disciples should listen to everything he says. God wants them to pay particular attention to what's just been said about how Jesus' messianic mission involves rejection, suffering, death and resurrection.

You may wish to use these questions to help you think about or discuss issues arising from this week's Bible passage.

- What stands out for you in the story of Elisha and Elijah?
- When have you caught a glimpse of the glory of God?
- How do this week's transfiguration stories challenge or encourage you?

A Prayer

God of our setting out and of our arriving,
we rejoice that, wherever we go, you go with us.
When we journey together, you bless us with fellowship.
When we journey alone, you bless us with courage.
When we journey in the footsteps of others, you bless us with gratitude.
When we journey to new places, you bless us with faith.
And when we make our last journey, you bless us with the

knowledge that we are safe within your eternal love – thank you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lectionary Readings

4 - 10 February - You are not forgotten by God

Epiphany 5: Isaiah 40.21-31; Psalm 147.1-11,20c; 1 Corinthians 9.16-23; Mark 1.29-39

11 - 17 February - The importance of witness and telling

Transfiguration: 2 Kings 2.1-12; Psalm 50.1-6; 2 Corinthians 4.3-6; Mark 9.2-9

18 - 24 February - God's good news of a covenant

Lent 1: Genesis 9.8-17; Psalm 25.1-10; 1 Peter 3.18-22; Mark 1.9-15

25 February – 2 March - Trusting God when we don't understand

Lent 2: Genesis 17.1-7,15-16; Psalm 22.23-31; Romans 4.13-25; Mark 8.31-38

Bible Study Group

The Bible Study Group meets on Tuesdays at 10.30am in the Church. It provides a welcoming and informal space to discuss, learn and reflect on God's Word.

A 6-week course for Lent will start on Tuesday 20 February led by our Minister, Revd Jane Rowell, entitled Faith Through Art. Why not come along and join us.

Church Services February

Services at 10.45am in the Lower Hall unless indicated otherwise

- Feb 4** Revd Jane Rowell. Coffee and Croissants.
- Feb 11** Christine Hutchinson and Barbara Mitchell.
- Feb 18** Barbara Ledger.
- Feb 25** Revd Jane Rowell. Dedication of Community Glass Panels.

Scheduled Meeting Dates 2024

Remember to put these in your new calendar!

Elders

- Tuesday 20 February 2.30pm
- Thursday 16 May 10.30am
- Tuesday 20 August 2.30pm
- Thursday 7 November 10.30am

Church Meeting

- Tuesday 19 March 2.30pm
- Thursday 20 June 10.30am
- Tuesday 17 September 2.30pm
- Thursday 28 November 10.30am

Margaret Dryburgh

Next year will be the 80th anniversary of the death of Margaret Dryburgh, the missionary sponsored by St George's, who is commemorated in the glass memorial in our Church. It is hoped that this will be marked by the unveiling of a blue plaque at the Church and, possibly, by events looking at the work of Margaret and other women Presbyterian missionaries in the Far East,

The story of Margaret Dryburgh's work in the women's internment camp in Sumatra in the 1940s was outlined in a recent review on Radio 4 of an exhibition at the National Archives in Kew, London, about Second World War captives; this continues to 21 July. The radio review included a recording of Margaret's Captives' Hymn.

Neil Sinclair

Food Cycle

A reminder that Food Cycle is operating at Stockton Road Church every Tuesday lunchtime.

Just pop in at 12,30pm and you will receive a warm welcome and a delicious free meal.

Love Amelia

Wishlist February 2024



BOYS & GIRLS CLOTHES:

- 2-16 years - all season appropriate clothes
- All age pyjamas
- Bibs
- Scratch mits

PRAMS

- Double Prams
- Travel Systems prams (no car seats please)
- Strollers



SLEEP EQUIPMENT:

- Cots (120x60) / Cotbeds (140x70)
- Moses Baskets and stands (no mattresses please)
- Moses Basket Sheets
- Sleeping bags - 0-6 month

HYGIENE

- Nappies - sizes 0, 1, 4, 5
- Baby Baths

OTHER EQUIPMENT:

- Changing Mats
- All age small toys
- Comforters
- Play gyms/play mats
- Sterilisers - cold water or microwave only
- Highchairs
- Baby carriers/slings
- Baby Bottles - all sizes (new only)



We kindly ask to please only donate items on wishlist as space and resources are very limited



Thank you for your support

