

Sunday February 15, 2026

Transfiguration Sunday

Sermon: “Pregnant?”

When World War II broke out, my stepfather worked for A. V. Roe and Company, an aviation firm that produced Lancaster bombers. Eventually Rodge signed up for the military and was sent overseas as an airframe mechanic. His job was to patch up the bombers after they returned from their bombing runs. One time he had to rebuild the entire tip of a wing, including making spars from scratch, all in one day so the bomber could go up again the next night. As the war progressed, Rodge went from being based in England to continental Europe. While posted in France, he got a three-day pass for some r & r and he decided to go skiing. He stayed with a French family for the three days. One night, after a long day of skiing, at the dinner table the French hostess asked if he wanted any more to eat. Rodge, using the best high school English he could muster, said, “Je suis plein,” which he thought meant he was full. The family almost fell out of their chairs they were laughing so hard. Dumbfounded, Rodge asked what was so funny. The family told him that he had informed them that he was full with child. Ah the differences between Parisian French and Canadian French.

Have you ever noticed that special glow that seems to emanate from a pregnant woman? Today is Transfiguration Sunday, the final Sunday in this season of light that started with the birth of the light of the world, continued with the wise men seeking the light, and all of the references to light we have seen every week since Epiphany. The Gospel lesson today tells the story of Jesus and three of his disciples, Peter, James, and John, who ascend a mountain and there Jesus was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. We tend to think that this is unique to Jesus, but, as we read in the Old Testament lesson today, that is not so. Moses too was transfigured. Although his clothing did not become as bright as light, his face shone. This made me wonder, what did Moses and

Jesus have in common that the face of both men shone? Why did their faces shine? ?????

I think their faces shone because they were full, not full with child, but full with the Holy Spirit, or, to put it a different way, they were pregnant with the Holy Spirit.

Have you ever noticed the energy that emanates from someone who is passionate about something, whether that is the sport they engage in, or the art they make, or the music they perform, or whatever? Have you ever noticed the energy that emanates from someone who is in a state of supreme joy? Have you ever noticed the energy that emanates from someone who is terrified? What other emotions make us shine?

Yes, Jesus was transfigured – his face and his entire being shone so brightly that the disciples wished they had a good pair of Ray-Bans, but he wasn't unique in that. Moses was also transfigured – his face shone so that it made people fear him and so he wore a veil over his face. We too are transfigured. We shine with joy, with hope, with passion for something, or someone, with fear.... or sometimes we may meet someone who is the opposite of shining, they are dark with malevolence, cruelty, or evil. Of course, I think that most of the time we walk around like zombies, neither glowing, nor sucking up light. It's like we are light bulbs that are not turned on.

Recently someone sent me a quote from American theologian, philosopher, educator, author, and human rights activist Howard Thurman. It goes like this, "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." I would alter that slightly to say, ask what makes you shine and go do it, because what this world needs is people who shine their light in the darkness of this world."

Go, let your light shine, so that others too will be encouraged to let their own light shine.

*****ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING*****

Opening Prayer

**God of all seasons and ages,
as we gather for the Annual Meeting of our Congregation we pray for
your guidance, that your Holy Spirit may open our hearts to hear one
another, as we consider the issues close to our life in Christ,
and decide how to journey faithfully with you in the year ahead.
As we offer our gifts in your service, keep us mindful of your son, Jesus
Christ, who always sought your guidance and your will. Amen.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the church, and by the
authority of the polity of the United Church of Canada, I declare this Annual
Congregational Meeting open for such business as may properly come before
it.

Closing Prayer

**Holy One, our meeting has ended, but life in you begins anew.
Thank you for the freedom in which we gathered, and for the privilege of
serving your church. For the decisions we have made, and the visions
we have glimpsed; for the challenges we meet, and the joys and
successes we celebrate, we thank you. Bless us as we return to our
homes and families. Help us to carry out the work that lies ahead of us,
and keep us faithful, each in our own way, to the light, the truth, and the
life of Jesus in whose name we rejoice and go forth. Amen.**

*****END OF MEETING*****