

Stokesley Methodist Church



Sunday 3rd March, 2019

10.30am Morning Worship led Rev Andrew Robinson,
including the Sacrament of Baptism

6.00pm Town Close with Rev Andrew Robinson,
including the Sacrament of Holy Communion

A Gathering Prayer from the Roots Resources

Loving Lord, we come into your presence, transfixed by your awesome holiness, and we seek the wisdom to listen to you in prayer; the courage to obey you in living; the willingness to encounter you when you choose to surprise us, and the fortitude to seek you when we need you most.

We come to meet you, O gracious God, in the way you desire to meet us. We come humbly in penitence and adoration. We come prayerfully with words and silence. We come expectantly and hopefully.

We seek your guidance.

We bring our need of your love.

We come into your holiness and feel your welcome.

Grant us wisdom to respond in ways that enable us to grow in you and become more like you. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Lectionary Readings:

Exodus 34 v29-35 The Radiant Face of Moses

Psalms 99 They called on the Lord and he answered them.

2 Corinthians 3 v12-4 v2 The Greater Glory of the New Covenant

Luke 9 v28-36 The Transfiguration

Moving Towards Lent

Do you like to travel? Even if you can't go anywhere, you can read books about places you would like to visit, or you can go to a travel agency and they will give you all of the travel brochures you want. You can see pictures of all of the beautiful places you might like to visit. If you have a good imagination, it is just like being there.

When Jesus called his disciples, he said, "Come, follow me." Can you imagine what it was like for them to travel with Jesus? Just think of the sights they saw.

They saw water turned into wine.

They saw blind, crippled, and sick people healed.

They saw people raised from the dead.

They saw Jesus walk on the water.

They saw 5000 people fed with five loaves and two fish.

Every day with Jesus was an exciting experience as the disciples followed him. Our Bible lesson from Luke's Gospel tells about a trip up a mountain that proved to be one of the most exciting journeys ever for three of Jesus' disciples.

The Bible tells us that Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up on a mountain to pray. As Jesus was praying, his face was changed and his clothes became a dazzling white. Suddenly, two

men appeared and began talking to Jesus. Do you know who it was? It Moses and Elijah. Peter and the others had fallen asleep and when they woke up, they saw Jesus and the other two talking. What a glorious sight! As Moses and Elijah started to leave, Peter said to Jesus. "Master, it is wonderful for us to be here! Let's build three shelters -- one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Suddenly, a cloud appeared and covered them. A voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my Son, listen to him." When the voice had spoken, Moses and Elijah were gone and the disciples were once again alone with Jesus on the mountain.

What an experience! No wonder Peter wanted to stay on the mountain top, but the Bible tells us that Peter "didn't know what he was saying." After all, if they had stayed there, they would have missed all of the wonderful experiences that followed.

You and I have many wonderful experiences as we follow Jesus. There is a song that says, "Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before." How true that is! When we have a great "mountain top experience" we may wish that it would never end. But remember, the best is yet to come!

All today's readings offer different glimpses of God's glory. Moses and Jesus encounter God in mountain-top moments, special times of blessing and instruction that strengthen them for all that lies ahead. Yet God is present in the ordinary as well as the extraordinary. Luke highlights the importance of praying regularly and listening to the teachings of Jesus, and Paul writes about the presence of the Holy Spirit in us, steadily renewing us and transforming us into the people that God has made us to be.

A Sending Out Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all of the wonderful experiences we enjoy as we walk each day with Jesus. Help us to follow him wherever he leads us.

Go in peace to meet God in the extraordinary and in the ordinary.

Go and listen. Go and hear. Go and respond.

And know that God will give you peace.

In Jesus name we pray

Amen.