

TRINITY NEWS

Last Sunday after Epiphany Theme: Transfiguration

Archbishop Michael Ramsey was one of the great Anglican theologians of the twentieth century. He wrote a beautiful book on the Transfiguration and in it he featured the Rabbinic term *yekara*. *Yekara* is not the Tent of Glory in the wilderness and not the *Shechinah* glory of the pillar of fire in the Exodus or Moses at the burning bush. It is the glory of God demonstrated in a person's conduct of life. "Now is the hour for the Son of man to be glorified" (John 12:23) is a *yekara* interpretation of the eventual bloody death of Jesus. The glory continues from the mountain through the Cross and Resurrection. One of the great texts of Scripture is about a *yekara* life: "looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, rejecting the shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2). He "rejected the shame", even that of being naked as an adult on the cross before his mother. "For the joy that was set before him" is a demonstration of *yekara* lifestyle and an expression of the glory of God. The great Church of the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor in northern Israel marks a glorious moment in the journey of Jesus. It shows his *yekara* glory, the glory of God expressed in a human being, linked to the *Shechinah* glory of God. The Rabbis used *yekara* to describe their holy ones, the true of heart.

The inner triad of Peter James and John had a glimpse on the mountain of what the ancients described as *Shechinah*, the making-present of the glory of God. We too have our mountain-top experiences. Like Peter, we cannot stay there but we must come down into the midst of life. But such experiences are huge resources in the Christian pilgrimage. We after all cannot depend on the latest charismatic preacher and one more high after another. That soon ebbs away like a receding tide. We have to depend on the abiding presence of our Lord in our lives, imprinted and remembered through the work of the Holy Spirit. I have never seen Jesus as a glory figure in a vision.

But I did see him day at the end of a retreat which I had conducted. He had eyes like pools of love, a small but strong body bronzed by the sun, with two lines in each of his cheeks and black hair to his shoulders. He walked lightly over the ground and then he was gone. He looked so vulnerable and yet unshakeable. This 'portrait' emerges at times when I close my eyes and I feel refreshed.

We cannot draw water with a sieve. Ice does not form in a fire. Faith does not come from reason alone, though it must be supported by reason. Faith comes from seeing something that someone else may not see. But it is there for all to see. Jesus promised the “cleansed in heart” that they would “see God”. This promise goes against his own Hebrew tradition about the unseen God. Seeing God is seeing Reality. Reality is the life in living, the seen in the seeing, the sense in the sensing, the touch in the touching, that which is heard in the hearing, the love in the loving, the ground of faith in being faithful. On the Mount of Transfiguration Peter, James and James were able to really see Jesus, perhaps for the first time. They were illuminated by the light of Christ and they wanted to stay according to Peter. But we all have to come down from the mountain into the valleys and plains below. The reality is also there!

Bishop Arthur Jones.

Genesis 2:4-9,15-17,25-3:7; Psalm 32;
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

THIS WEEK:

Mar. 8, Shrove Tuesday/ Pancake Supper.

Join us for both American and British-style pancakes from 5pm-7pm.

Adults-P250.00

Children (7-12 yrs old)-P150.

A sign-up sheet is on the Parish Office board for those who wish to donate items. Cash donations are most welcome. **Assistance in serving and cleaning up will be appreciated.**

†Mar. 9, Ash Wednesday, Service at 7:00 p.m.

Congratulations our new set of vestry officers!

Terry Lynch, *Senior Warden*
Sam Tukuafu, *Junior Warden*
Edison Yap, *Treasurer*
Vicky Yu, *Assistant Treasurer*
Kenneth Keng, *Secretary*
Lionel Shau, *Corporate Secretary*