

GRACENOTES

IN EXILE

BEING TOGETHER IN A YEAR APART

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Dear PAM Westminster Conference friends!

Happy Tuesday!

Life is settling into a pattern. We know when to get up and miss the crowd in the bathroom, get to the dining room so we do not have to stand too long in line. We have started to worry less about our younger charges, and maybe have gotten past the homesick moments. We've had some times of relaxing at Muggsies with the wireless internet checking Facebook and e-mail.

Transfiguration... interesting time in Jesus' life. Where I sit in the choir at home in the front of our church we look to a grand stained glass window at the rear of the room. It shows three events in the life of Christ, the center lancet depicting the Transfiguration. It is a beautiful visual, the whole cast of characters is there. Our pastors have used it as a part of the Children's in in the service, walking back to look at it up close. They have used it as a sermon illustration, although using the visual is hard when everyone is facing away from the window. Maybe there is also some symbolism in our facing away from the picture. Are we missing the point of the story? Are we seeing through the veil to what the transformation means for us, our work, our congregations?

I think Sylvia Dunstan says it pretty well...

Transform us as you,
transfigured,
stood apart on Tabor's height.
Lead us up our sacred mountains, search us with revealing light.
Lift us from where we have fallen,
full of questions, filled with fright.

Transform us as you,
transfigured,
once spoke with those holy ones.
We, surrounded by the witness of the saints whose work is done,
live in this world as your Body,
chosen daughters, chosen sons.

Transform us as you,
transfigured,
would not stay within a shrine.
Keep us from our great temptation
time and truth we quickly bind.
Lead us down those daily pathways
where our love is not confined.

Today we celebrate -

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

First Reading - Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm - Psalm 99

Second Reading- 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Gospel- Luke 9:28-43

*Let us remember in prayer today our musical clinicians.**

Greg Funfgeld, Adult and Chamber choir - First Presbyterian Church and The Bach Choir of Bethlehem, PA
Robert Schneider, Youth Choir -Shaker Heights HS and First Baptist Church, Cleveland, OH
Sue Ellen Page, Children's Choir - Nassau Presbyterian Church, Princeton, NJ
Michael Joy, First Presbyterian Church, Ambler PA, The Shipley School, Philadelphia PA
Deborah Holden-Holloway - West Side Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood, NJ
Bill Carter - First Presbyterian Church, Clark's Summit, PA, Presby-bop quartet
Tom Trenny - First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, MI

* As we remember those we are praying for, they are those who would have ben leading us this week. Pray for their everyday jobs and callings



The fine print: This is not being done by the 2009 Conference Committee, and there fore is not to be taken as anything official. It is just something I felt led to do. I hope you find it of interest as we are apart this year.

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