

Reflection Friday Week 16 Transfiguration 2021

In the Transfiguration Jesus goes up onto a mountain and his clothes become dazzlingly white. Prophets appear and talk to him. Afterwards Jesus tells his disciples not to say anything. This event appears almost as an interlude in the Gospels. Yet, *there is no reason for anyone to have invented it*. It is not central to the Christian message. It is not used to win arguments. It almost appears that the evangelists wrote this down without knowing why it is important. Why, then, did it happen? One response could be that it happened to show us that Jesus is at once one of the prophets and also the one who was prophesied by them; and that he is God, and lives for all eternity in dazzling and unapproachable light. It could also have happened to strengthen his trusted friends for what was to come. However, the real miracle of the Transfiguration is not the shining face or the white garments or the appearance of Moses and Elijah, but the fact that, for the rest of the time, Jesus hid his glory so well.

Transfiguration by Malcolm Guite. (Used before but so very apt for today.)

For that one moment, 'in and out of time',
on that one mountain where all moments meet,
the daily veil that covers the sublime
in darkling glass fell dazzled at his feet.
There were no angels full of eyes and wings
just living glory full of truth and grace.
The Love that dances at the heart of things
shone out upon us from a human face;
and to that light the light in us leaped up,
we felt it quicken somewhere deep within,
a sudden blaze of long-extinguished hope
trembled and tingled through the tender skin.
Nor can this blackened sky, this darkened scar
eclipse that glimpse of how things really are.