



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast!
February 23, 2020

The Last Sunday After Epiphany: Transfiguration Sunday

From Matthew 17:1-9 – “Suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and . . . a voice said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him’ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Get up and do not be afraid.’”

Not a Sermon . . .

Epiphany celebrated God’s incarnation as Jesus the Christ; Lent will begin a season of reflection, penitence, and self-examination as we wait for Christ’s return. As we read in today’s Gospel, Jesus was transfigured on the mountain, revealing his divine nature. We have come to the end of the Christian season of Epiphany on this Transfiguration Sunday, and soon we will transition to the season of Lent.

We know about transitioning seasons in the North Country. We know very well that we are in mid-winter, having already experienced almost five months of freezing temperatures and snow on the ground for almost four months. And it’s not over, is it? (Maybe a couple of more months.)

In the Northern Hemisphere we benefit from simultaneous gift of Easter Sunday, a celebration of Christ’s resurrection, and the beginning of spring, the awakening of the Earth. As Easter approaches, we will literally see the Earth be transformed. The snow will melt as the temperatures rise above freezing for the first time in half a year.

Winter, like Lent, conjures up many memories, thoughts, and emotions, some of them dark and depressing. Yet, as the editors of Earth Prayers, Elizabeth Roberts and Elsa Amidon, reassure us:

It is during winter that the seed stirs and gestates in rich, dark, and cold Earth. . . . Christ entered the world in the season of Epiphany, and Christ’s energy enters the Earth at this season of winter and Lent. The yule log has been lighted.

For months we watched the nights grow shorter, and now they grow longer. The seed of Christ, gestating in the cold, will soon sprout in the light. We will experience rebirth, resurrection and transformation.

Indeed, the light of hope grows longer just as does the sunshine, and we anticipate our rebirth and watch and wait with faithful hearts. God will be openly manifested on Earth again...but God has always been with us and will be with us. “Do not be afraid.”

Prayers for . . .

- healing for all people afflicted by disease in the world and in our communities.
- Jim’s soul and his family. Jim passed away this week.
- healing and comfort for Debbie (out-of-state friend) and her husband John.