



# The Shepherd's Voice

February 5, 2013

By Fr. Joe Rees

## 'Beloved & Chosen'

"As Jesus was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, **"This is my Son, my Beloved/Chosen One; listen to Him!"** And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone." Luke 9: 34-36a.

This Sunday is the Last Sunday of Epiphany. It is the custom of the Church over the centuries to have the readings for this Sunday depict The Transfiguration. The Hebrew Scripture passage is from Exodus 34, Moses coming down from the mountain having received the Ten Commandments, his face shining like the sun. It was the holy encounter with our Holy God. Moses was chosen to bring the Law. Jesus was God's Son, chosen to bring His forgiving love. It's also why we have the passage from 1 Cor 13 read to highlight God's standard of love for His people. Coming forth from the mountains where both Moses and Jesus entered into the magnificent presence of God is the flowing water of God's love. How perfect that the One to bring this Love is the perfect Son of God, Jesus Christ, the man of Love, laying down His life for those He loves.

Although the ESV uses the word 'Chosen' in verse 35, I still prefer as some manuscripts do the more descriptive and accurate word, 'Beloved'. See the footnote in the ESV. The reason for me is the true nature of the Father's declaration to be an extension of Himself; His Being, the Substance of which is Love. God thought, 'surely my people will listen to Me if I give them the Law and then they will know that I love them and respond'. But, the very people Moses was bringing the Ten Commandments to were at that very moment involved in a wild orgy at the base of the mountain. They doubted God's Love and Providence. They took things into their own hands. It wasn't until Moses appealed before

God for a second chance for them that He was able to replace the two tablets that were shattered in wrath the first time he came down the mountain. The Law imperfectly attempted to control their behavior, whereas the Love in/of Jesus was meant to abide within us to grow love toward God and one another. With Jesus inside, love overrules, and hearts turn to Him who saves us and calls us His 'friends'.

There on the top of the mountain with Jesus is Moses and Elijah, the Law and the Prophets represented. The Law calls for obedience, the Prophets warn of consequences, but Jesus is the pinnacle, the apex, the source of Love that conveys the perfection of the other two in a holy love that cannot be forsaken. Sure Peter wanted to keep them all there, hoping to house that triad together in One place. But, Jesus is found alone at the end indicating that the Father knows that only the Person of Perfect Love can and will go forward, down the mountain. He brings a better covenant than the Law, and does the only sacred act of love known to us in all of history to bring us true love. He took our sins upon His heart; being sacrificed on the cross, bled and died those sins into a death of ashes left behind as He rose in glory. Our Lord Jesus frees us from the consequence of endless separation from God. Our Savior Jesus is the most 'beloved', the most 'loving', the most giving of His endless Love for those who cannot earn it or deserve anything of the kind. He simply is the epitome of Love.

Oh to be in that cloud with Jesus, to hear His Father's Voice (second time after baptism), to be in awe and wonder at the majesty of God being conferred upon His only Son. This alone would be a moment of perfection, a moment of peace, a moment never to be forgotten. Yet, in Jesus we can have those glimpses, those tastes, those breaths of the cloud and its vapors, and realize that we are

drawing His perfections of love into our hearts and souls. We are His chosen ones, *beloved* of the Lord, to follow in His footsteps and receive the joys of His companionship. We are those who the Father now says, 'You are my beloved ones, I have chosen you, to go and bear witness of the Beloved One who saved you with His love'. "Be" the 'Be-

loved of Jesus' and give His Love away freely. Thanks be to God!

With the Love of 'The Beloved One' for you,  
Fr. Joe

**Sunday Servers this week...**

<b>February 10, 2013</b>			<b>9:00 a.m. Service</b>
First Reader			Jani Dubski
Psalm Reader			Randy Stewart
Second Reader		Second Sunday	Judy Gillease
Intercessors		One Service	Rob Ackerman
Lay Euch. Ministers			Carolyn Blumberg, Paula Sholly
Acolytes			Rob Ackerman (C); David A (T1); Kai C (T2)
Welcomers			Myrna Lipnicke; Anna Teixeira; Paula Sholly
Ushers			Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, Jackie Lansing, Dick Sholly
Vestry Person of Day	Richard Rieder		
Healing Ministers			Rudy Theobald, Trish Stewart
Announcer			Joy Rosendale

## The Bishop is coming!

Bishop Bill Thompson will be at Grace on February 17<sup>th</sup>. If you want to be baptized, confirmed, or received while the Bishop is here, please contact the church office.

### Tuesdays in January and Beyond

Feb. 5th and Feb. 26-Mar. 19th

Donna Brayton's life-changing course on the Sermon on the Mount continues this Tuesday, February 5 with a potluck @ 6:30PM. This is Jesus' powerful teaching on how to live as a truly committed follower of Christ in community with others. Be sure to sign up at the book table in the Narthex. Come at 6:30 p.m. with food to share and stay for this wonderful series.

# Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

## February 12th

We start serving at 6:00 p.m.

Fun & Frivolity begins at 7:00

Everyone is Welcome!

## Sunday at Grace

9:00 a.m. - **One Service**

11:00 a.m. - Second Sunday  
Fellowship Lunch  
Noon – Family Friendly

Call Linnie Phelps if  
you want to do  
something to entertain  
on Shrove Tuesday.

## Readings for Sunday

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13

Luke 9:28-36

We are using the English Standard  
Version of the Bible and the Lectionary  
from the Book of Common Prayer  
(Year C)

### This Week at Grace –Feb. 5, 2013-Feb. 12, 2013

#### Tues. February 5

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study  
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC  
6:30 p.m. Potluck Fellowship Dinner  
7:00 p.m. Donna's Sermon on the Mount Teaching

#### Wed February 6

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Eucharist  
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
3:30 p.m. Alpha Club  
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

#### Thurs. February 7

6:15 a.m. Br. Benno's Team  
7:00 a.m. Bible Study  
10:00 a.m. Sr. Women's Fellowship at Ruth Yahn's  
11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at the Oasis  
7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal

#### Fri. February 8

Fr. Joe's day off  
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Eucharist at Grace

#### Sat. February 9

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship – Suite T  
9:00 a.m. Cursillo Parish Rep. Meeting  
12:00 p.m. Kingdom Conference Planning Meeting  
1-4 p.m. Cursillo Grand Ultreya

#### Sun. February 10

9:00 a.m. One Service  
10:45 a.m. Fellowship lunch  
Noon Family Friendly

#### Mon. February 11

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

#### Tues. February 12

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study  
4:30 p.m. Healing prayer & Eucharist at CHC  
6:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  
7:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Fun & Frivolity

### Rector's Bible Study

Tuesdays

11:30 a.m.

Fr. Joe is leading the group through a study of  
the Book of Isaiah. Everyone is welcome.  
B.Y.O.L. (Bring your own lunch)

**Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.**  
**Morning Prayer At Grace Anglican**  
**All are welcome to attend.**

**Weekly** – There are over 25 small groups meeting  
during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of  
all the groups or you can find the list on our website:  
[www.graceanglicanchurch.com](http://www.graceanglicanchurch.com).

## Save the date!

Feb. 9 Prayers & Squares – 9:30 a.m.  
Feb. 10 – One service at 9:00 a.m. with Baptism of  
Talon Dannenberger – brunch to follow.  
Feb. 12 Shrove Tuesday fun and frivolity  
Feb. 13 Ash Wed. Services at noon and 7:00 p.m.  
Feb. 15 Evening Prayer & Healing Service 6:30p.m.  
Feb. 15 A Time of Liturgical Contemplation 7 p.m.  
Feb. 16&17 Bishop Bill at Grace  
Feb. 19 Soup Supper  
& Lenten Teaching w. Fr. Richard  
Feb. 20 Vestry Meeting  
Feb. 26 Donna Brayton's Class  
Feb. 22 Evening Prayer Service & Healing-6:30pm  
Feb. 23 Combined Vestry Retreat at Grace  
Mar. 9 Prayers & Squares – 9:30 a.m.  
Mar. 9 Daylight Savings Time –set clocks forward.  
Mar. 13 Soaking Prayer  
Mar. 24 Palm Sunday  
Mar. 28 Maundy Thursday – Foot Washing service  
Mar. 29 Good Friday Services – Noon and 7:00 p.m.  
Mar. 30 Holy Saturday – Great Vigil of Easter  
Mar. 31 Easter Sunday