**Contemplative Service for Wednesday**

**February 7, 2024**



**First reading**: 2 Corinthians 4: 16-18

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self will dwindle, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For the affliction of the present moment is preparing for fulfillment beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen go on forever.

**Music:** “Silent in the Soul,” by Loren Connors

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axWjcgHovPc

**Second reading**: from “Cracks in Heaven and Earth,” by Richard Beck

In the transfiguration icons Jesus is standing on top of the mountain. Moses and Elijah are to his right and left. Peter, James, and John are depicted as either bowing in worship or scattered and thrown down in the face of the revelation. Jesus appears to be coming out of a dark crack.

As Rowan Williams writes, "The dark background against which Jesus is shown is something you will see in other icons as a way of representing the depths of heavenly reality. In the transfiguration, what the disciples see is, as you might say, Jesus' humanity 'opening up' to its inner dimensions. It is rather like the Hindu story of the infant Krishna, told by his mother to open his mouth to see if he has been eating mud; she looks in, and sees the whole universe in the dark interior of his throat. So the disciples look at Jesus, and see him as *coming out* from an immeasurable depth; behind or within him, infinity open up, 'dwelling of the light', to borrow the haunting phrase from Job 38.19.

Mark 1.38 reports Jesus as saying that he has 'come out' so that he can proclaim the good news; and John's Gospel too uses the language of coming out from the depths of the Father. Belief in Jesus is seeing him as the gateway to an endless journey into God's love.

**Music:** “Airs I” by Loren Connors

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sbk5m3W5TGM

**Time of Silent Contemplation**

Transcendence transfigures; it does not reconcile, but rather transmutes opposites into something surpassing them that effaces their oppositions.

—Sri Aurobindo

**Communal Blessing**

Come, Moving Current, and wash away our stiffness and blindness. Sweep away the husk of limitation. As we open ourselves, show us the universe opening into and from you. Transfiguration is unobscured vision. Transfiguration is unforeseen freedom. We stretch into the pattern of your movement and our souls are lit with your energy. Amen.

**Music**: “Day (1)” by Loren Connors

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_QJfxD2suVE>

*May you experience transfiguration in the days ahead*

*in the embrace and evolution of the divine.*