

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## **A Devotion During This Time of the Coronavirus Pandemic Transfiguration Sunday, AME Church Founder's Day, February 14, 2021**

**Changed**

**Mark 9:2-9**

9:2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them,

9:3 and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.

9:4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

9:5 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

9:6 He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

9:7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

9:8 Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

9:9 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Imagine that you are standing with Peter, James, and John; and, right before your very eyes, you see your rabbi, your leader, your hope transfigured, transformed! Changed!

Is it too much of a stretch to assume that if Jesus changed, then those in his presence had to change also? The scriptural passage does not say it; but, I can imagine it. All Mark testifies is that they were terrified; but, I believe much more happened to them on that mountaintop. When one sees Jesus in a new way, one cannot help but see everything in a new way. Their view of Jesus changed. Their understanding of the world must have as well. Their view of themselves changed. Peter wanted to freeze this spectacular moment when everything changed. But the fact that everything changed meant that this was not the moment for pitching tents! A voice

declared, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" You have seen the change with your eyes. You see his divine glory; now listen to him with your ears and with your hearts.

*In The Life, Experience, and Gospel Labours of The Right Reverend Richard Allen, the founder of the AME Church described the great change he experienced because of his encounter with Christ:*

*One night I thought hell would be my portion. I cried unto Him who delighteth to hear the prayers of a poor sinner; and all of a sudden my dungeon shook, my chains flew off, and glory to God, I cried. My soul was filled. I cried, enough for me--the Saviour died. Now my confidence was strengthened that the Lord, for Christ's sake, had heard my prayers, and pardoned all my sins. I was constrained to go from house to house, exhorting my old companions, and telling to all around what a dear Saviour I had found.*

Allen's view of his world and himself changed, causing him to work for his freedom, the freedom of his family, and the freedom and salvation of all.

Some grieve because everything since 2020 seems to have changed. Life as we knew it will likely not ever be quite the same. Have our perspectives changed enough to allow us to perceive possibilities even as we acknowledge the loss? Has our faith changed enough to cause us to listen differently, attentively, and obediently to the Beloved, the Transfigured One?

**TALK:** Take a moment to be silent, reflect, and share (write down)—Reflecting on the scripture, how have you changed along your faith journey?

**PRAY:**

We give thanks to you, O Lord our God, for all your servants and witnesses of time past: for Abraham, the father of believers, and Sarah his wife; for Moses, the lawgiver, and Aaron, the priest; for Miriam and Joshua, Deborah, and Gideon, and Samuel with Hannah his mother; for Elijah and all the prophets; for Mary, the mother of our Lord; for Peter and Paul and all the apostles, evangelists, and martyrs of the early church; for John and Charles Wesley, Richard and Sarah Allen, William Paul Quinn, Daniel Alexander Payne, Jarena Lee, and all of those who have helped to established our faith and identity; and for the bishops of the church and all those, clergy and laity, who are leading your church today. In your mercy, O LORD our God, give us, as you gave to them, love for justice and righteousness, the hope of salvation, and the promise of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, whom you sent to reconcile the world to yourself. We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the gospel to all nations. For the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever, in the name of Christ Jesus, we pray, *AMEN*.

*Adapted from St. Paul AME Church, Versailles, KY, Founder's Day 2019 order of worship*

**ACT:**

1. Based on your reflections from the TALK section, even now, what is Christ calling you to do differently because of a change in you? Make a plan to put that thing in motion. On this Transfiguration Sunday/Founder's Day, do what you can to protect the health of others and yourself by practicing social distancing as much as possible, washing your hands often, and

wearing face covering to help prevent the spread of COVID-19—See:  
<http://www.amechealth.org>.

2. See also the Founder's Day resources and activities that accompany this devotion.

**Song:** What A Wonderful Change in My Life  
AMEC Hymnal, #403

1. What a won-der-ful change in my life has been wrought  
Since Je-sus came in-to my heart!  
I have light in my soul for which long I have sought,  
Since Je-sus came in-to my heart!

*Refrain*

*Since Je-sus came in-to my heart, Since Je-sus came in-to my heart,  
Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea bil-lows roll, Since Je-sus came in-to my heart.*

2. I have ceased from my wan-dering and go-ing a-stray,  
Since Je-sus came in-to my heart!  
And my sins, which were man-y, are all washed a-way,  
Since Je-sus came in-to my heart!

*Refrain*

3. I'm pos-sessed of a hope that is stead-fast and sure,  
Since Je-sus came in-to my heart!  
And no dark clouds of doubt now my path-way ob-scure,  
Since Je-sus came in-to my heart!

*Refrain*

4. There's a light in the val-ley of death now for me,  
Since Je-sus came in-to my heart!  
And the gates of the Cit-y be-yond I can see,  
Since Je-sus came in-to my heart!

*Refrain*

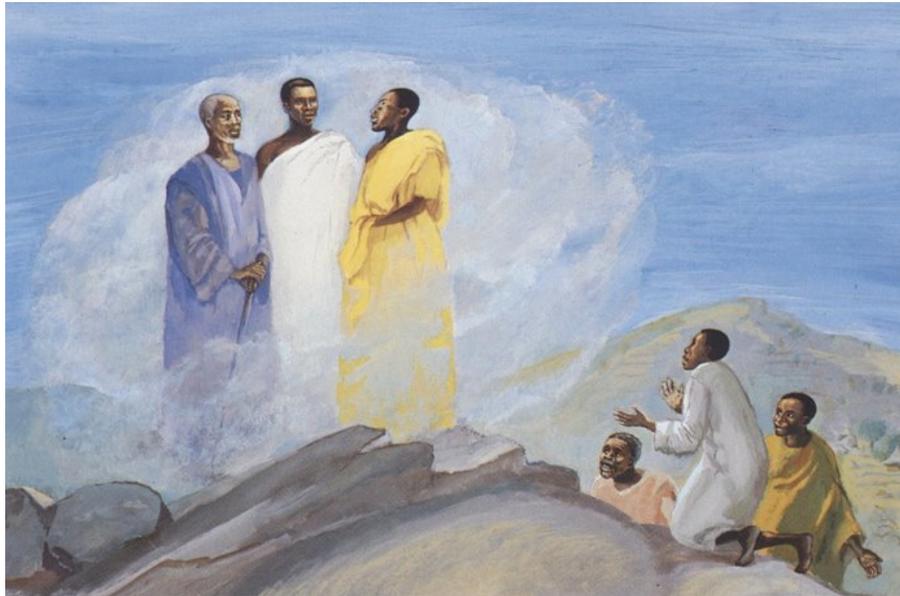
5. I shall go there to dwell in that Ci-ty, I know,  
Since Je-sus came in-to my heart!  
And I'm hap-py, so hap-py, as on-ward I go,  
Since Je-sus came in-to my heart!

*Refrain*

Alternative Song: I Know I've Been Changed: <https://youtu.be/6LreONqRQLc>

Physical space—You may wish to create a dedicated space for your time of devotion. You may choose to place a candle, bible, and special symbols or material/fabric to help you focus and center during this time of reflection and prayer.

If you use this meditation and exercise in a time of family or group devotion, share in the leadership; allow different persons to read or lead different parts of this meditation.



### *Transfiguration*

JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

*The Christian Education Department will continue to develop resources that can be used as times of personal and collective devotion and study during this pandemic to help us all sustain and strengthen our faith and resolve.*