

BLESSINGS ALWAYS
February 26, 2025
Association Minister Message
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TRANSFIGURATION. It is rather surprising and amusing at times to see family and friends and notice how their physical appearances have changed. Several years ago, a friend of mine who always had a long well-kept beard, shaved off all his facial hair, and lost over 50 pounds. A group of us were together and David joined us as he was visiting his parents in our town. When David walked into the restaurant and came over to our table, at first we did not recognize him, but once he spoke we realized who he was. Our children's appearances change as they mature or intentionally make changes. Our appearances sometimes give others clues about our physical or emotional health. We see in others a "bubbly" or sad appearance. A person with a radiance or sparkling appearance draws our attention.

It only seems like yesterday that Christians were celebrating the birth of Jesus. Within several weeks Jesus was an adult baptized by John, spoke in the Temple, began a ministry of both comfort and confrontation, and called disciples. For three years Jesus had an amazing ministry, and people's lives were changed and challenged, but there were those who responded to His ministry with doubt, fear, anger, betrayal, and desertion.

This Sunday is the *TRANSFIGURATION* of Jesus that leads us to a Lenten journey from ashes to the cross to resurrection. The entire ministry of Jesus was transformational to those who followed Him and who still follow Him today. Jesus took disciples with Him for a mountain-top experience and the disciples saw Jesus change before them. *"And while Jesus was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning."* (Luke 9:29). Who is this Jesus we encounter? Motivational speaker, comforter, miracle worker, historical figure, or Lord and Savior? After the transfiguration event, Jesus becomes the healer and in that moment reminds us of his divinity becomes human care and compassion. In the up-coming Lenten Season, we are transformed to receive resurrection faith. The concluding words of Sunday's gospel lectionary are, *"And all were astounded (overwhelmed) at the greatness of God."* (9:43). The glow of the *TRANSFIGURATION* brings *BLESSINGS ALWAYS*.