

Connecting the Sunday Sparkle at Hearsall Baptist with the Daily Dust of Life

Welcome

Have you ever seen someone in a new light - perhaps gaining new information about a person which develops your understanding of them. Share some examples.

Worship

Read Hebrews 1: 1 - 4

- What does the teaching of Jesus tell us about God?
- What does the character of Jesus tell us about God?
- What does the cross of Jesus tell us about God?
- What does the ascension of Jesus tell us about God?

Word

Read Matthew 17: 1 - 3

Consider these two pictures of Jesus:

1. The Jesus who welcomed children, taught in parables and cleansed the temple;
 2. The Jesus of the transfiguration, whose face was shone like the sun.
- Which picture of Jesus is most fundamental to his nature?
 - How do these two pictures of Jesus relate to each other?
 - How do you respond to them?

Read Matthew 17: 4

- Explore Peter's thinking here. To what extent does he understand the experience?
- Some moments are just what they are, and then they pass. It can be a mistake to try to hold on to them. What are some equivalents of putting up three shelters in our own spiritual lives?

Read Matthew 17: 5 - 7

- Where else do we read of a voice from heaven confirming Jesus' identity? Suggest some possible reasons why it was repeated here.
- How do the disciples respond, and why?
- How does Jesus reassure them?

Read 2 Peter 1: 16 - 18

Peter probably wrote these words around the year 65 CE, over thirty years after the event they describe and not long before his death.

- What do you think this memory meant to him?
- What are the key events in your own spiritual life that you still remember to this day?
- As the year of the City of Culture draws near, have a chat about creative ways of sharing what our faith means to us.

Response

- Reflect more deeply on a key spiritual event in your life. Write or talk through what it means to you today. You could produce some artwork or a song or a dance or a poem to express your reflections.
- Is it time for a renewal of your spiritual life? Consider ways of deepening your prayer life, or even going on a retreat.