

Tues., Nov. 29, 2011

The Rev. Dr. James Davison '69, Director of Continuing Education and Special Events

Scripture

2 Peter 1:12-21

¹²Therefore I intend to keep on reminding you of these things, though you know them already and are established in the truth that has come to you. ¹³I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to refresh your memory, ¹⁴since I know that my death will come soon, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Devotional

The author of 2 Peter says that he plans to remind his readers regularly to remain firm in the faith. Then as now, challenges and weaknesses can easily lead us away from faith. One challenge can be the creeping doubt that, perhaps, this whole story of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is just that...a story.

Our author cautions us not to be misled into thinking that these truths are only "cleverly devised myths." Rather, referring to the Transfiguration, he reminds us that the disciples were eyewitnesses of the "power and coming" of Jesus Christ. They heard God himself declare that Jesus is the "beloved Son."

Christ's glory isn't all that obvious in this Advent season, for Jesus comes hidden in the humble form of a baby. But this story isn't just a "story." It's the start of a Life that will bring new life to Israel, and through them, to all the world...and to us.

Prayer

Gracious God, that you have taken on human form in Jesus Christ is more than we can comprehend, and sometimes it seems beyond belief. Grant that, during this Advent season, we will see signs of his glory, so that our faith may be firm and our hearts pure. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you, and in your glorious Son. Amen.