

August 2, 2023

A Reflection from our Rector, The Rev. Ben Robertson

Today I depart for vacation. Sometime after lunch, the family and I will pile in the car, head south, and, after a few hours of driving, arrive at Holden Beach, North Carolina. Holden is a blessedly simple place without the business, high-rise hotels, and "attractions" one might find on a larger beach. Holden is a great spot to just be and rest. And while I sincerely love all y'all, I am also looking forward to our time away.

When I arrive at the beach, after unloading the car, encouraging the children to dispose of any road trip trash, unpacking, and greeting various relations and cousins, I like to walk to the water's edge. Once there, I kick off my shoes and wade (ankle-deep) into the ocean. I am reminded of Psalm 104:24-26,

"O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.
There go the ships,
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it."

On Sunday, the Rev. Bob Friend and the Ven. David Curtis will be at All Saints to preside and preach. I know David will share excellent insights from the pulpit, and Bob looks forward to sharing the sacrament. Also on Sunday, our Gospel will be Luke 9:28-36, one of the accounts of the Transfiguration, the moment Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a mountain and was transformed into his dazzling, heavenly appearance, and with him appeared Moses and Elijah. There is a beautiful mosaic of this moment in our Nave, near the door that leads to the Douglas Burgoyne Cloister.

I will not step on my friend David's homiletical toes, but for me, the vast, wild, and mysterious ocean is an abstract icon of the Transfiguration, where the curtain of the mundane is thrown aside and God's majesty is made known. And for a few days, there I will be, in awe of God's manifold works. I pray you enjoy such places - such transfigurations - in your life, and discover new ones from time to time. Looking for and celebrating such manifestations of the holy is a key part of our Christian adventure.

See y'all soon. Now, where is my book ...