

**February, 14, 2021**

## **Transfiguration**

This past Wednesday marked the first 30 days of my time with you. This month has certainly been busy getting to know the community and getting to know the people of Palma Sola and Westminster churches. It has been a month of “aha” moments and “aah” days as I adjust to a different range of temperatures. (I couldn’t imagine that jackets, gloves and hats weren’t every day attire in late January and early February.)

These first 30 days have been a sensory time for me. I’ve enjoyed hearing your stories about your life and family; about former pastors and members from the past, about activities considered successful and not so successful. I’ve used these days to walk around the campus to see and imagine how space has been used, is currently being used, and to consider what they might be used for in the future. During these 30 days I’ve had occasions to tell you about myself. I’ve caught certain aromas unique to this place and others common to every church I’ve served.

Today is Transfiguration Sunday. The gospel reading describes an event in which Jesus is transfigured and a vision in which he is seen in conversation with Israel’s great leaders – Moses and Elijah. Peter declares, “It is good to be here” and proposes creating a monument commemorating the event. Jesus on the other hand orders him to keep quiet, at least until after the resurrection.

It will take some time before they fully understand what they had just witnessed. Jesus knows there is much more ahead – a journey that will take them to Jerusalem where he will suffer at the hand of the civil and religious authorities, be killed, and then rise. It’s as if Jesus says, “Wait until a later time...then you will more fully know and understand.”

We are about to begin a season of waiting. Lent is traditionally a time to prepare and a time for our faith to grow as we practice prayer, spiritual disciplines, and self-reflection. This is a time to examine our lives and our stories as we journey with Jesus to Jerusalem and beyond.

Thirty days is but a short time. It is too early to write our story together, and yet, the time will come when we will realize the good news that our stories tell.

**Blessings, Edward**