

Sermon: “Blinded by the Light “Today professional football teams will climb a high mountain and experience the bright lights shining directly on them. One team will be led by Brock Purdy who has never climbed the rocky path of the playoffs to Super Bowl Mountain until this year and he will be opposed by Patrick Mahones who literally lives on Super Bowl Mountain. One will quarterback will win and will lose, both will be transformed by the bright lights, the suffocating clouds of media and the voices of past Super Bowl champions echoing in their heads. The disciples in our passage this morning are in a similar situation. They have climbed the Mount of Transfiguration. They will be exposed to the unearthly light emanating from Jesus, they will be surrounded by heroes of the past, Elijah and Moses the champions of the prophets and the law respectively. They will be surrounded by a cosmic cloud more overwhelming than any media cloud we will ever face in our age. Everyone who goes to the Super Bowl will be changed and the deeper their participation the more profound their transformation. All of the three disciples who went up to the Mount of Transfiguration Peter, Janes and John became authors of scripture. Peter even included a memoir about this event in one of his letters, saying “ For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice

came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.”

For Peter it was a memorable and life changing event. All of us will in fact face hills and valleys in our own lives and we will be changed not only by what happens in those situations but by how we react to them. When we experience life changing events the depth of our participation will determine the depth of our transformation. What will keep us on track in the highs and lows of life, from the Mount of Transfiguration to the Valley of despair? For the Christian it is to remember with Peter to listen to the voice of the beloved Son, Jesus. Because he has been on the mountain and he has walked the lonely valley and he will be with us in our highs and ins our lows. And as long as we stay close to him we will be changed from glory into glory in the light of his image. Here at Trinity we have been through a lot of ups and downs, highs and lows. We have faced these things together and I am grateful for that. We don't know who will win the Super Bowl and we don't know what the future holds for Trinity. Whatever it holds we need to listen to the voice of the Beloved Son, because we also are the beloved children of our Lord here at Trinity Presbyterian. Amen