

Session 2

God's Beloved

A reflection on Mark 1:1-15; 9:2-9; 15:33-39

By the Rev. Sean Maloney

When I think of the passages for this week, my initial reaction is to be moved by the language of God. My second thought is: of course Jesus is his beloved, but where does that leave me?

If the voice of God rang out in a moment of my life, what would it say? I confess that on my worst days it is, "This is an idiot, with whom I am highly irritated."

Then the still small voice inside of me actually does speak. I am reminded of when these interactions occur. We hear the voice at Jesus' baptism and the transfiguration. We are also reminded of it at his death - the temple curtain splitting like the clouds and then Jesus being taken home.

I note the events because they bear a striking resemblance to events in my own life. I too was baptized. I was brought into the household of God and marked as his own forever. I haven't been transfigured, yet I have had countless times and places in my life where, with intentionality, I have drawn close to God. There are times that I have given myself to him completely and he has transformed me into more than I could ever be alone.

It is with that knowledge that I don't fear or worry about death. I rest easy in the love of Jesus as he promises to prepare a place for me. So it is that I hear the voice growing louder: "This too is my son, with him I am also pleased"

- The Rev. Sean Maloney is rector of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Corpus Christi, Texas