

Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry of New Jersey
Weekly Witness | February 8, 2018

This week the Church celebrates Transfiguration Sunday. In Mark's gospel, we hear of Jesus on the mountain top with Peter, James, and John. A voice from heaven pronounces Jesus as God's son, urging that his followers listen to him. Peter, in fear (or awe) wants Jesus, Elijah, and Moses to remain there on the mountain top. But the moment is quickly over, and Jesus heads back with his disciples. Jesus, Peter, James, and John head back down the mountain to continue their work within neighborhoods.

Over and over Jesus chooses to make his home with us. He is not controlling and reigning over us as an autocratic ruler or cosmic fixer from on high. His power does not come from the dazzling reaches beyond. Rather, Jesus chooses to make his home with us and among us, empowering us and journeying with us in ordinary, human life experiences. Jesus travels with us through dark days and when we feel like we are in small places. Jesus brings liberation not through power and prestige but through expansive, redemptive love in us and with us.

Jesus loves us in all of life's circumstances, and calls us on that journey toward community. Just as Peter, James, and John were somewhat reluctant disciples, sometimes we too can be anxious or stubborn to believe or take action. But Jesus persists. He calls out, "follow me" ... into the world, into the suffering of our neighbors, into a beloved community.

We are called to share love and advocate for justice amid Dreamers, refugees, and unaccompanied minors. We are called to walk alongside elected officials, advocates, and those with privilege. Sometimes we are called to the mountain tops and the rooms where things happen, and other times we are called to the streets and the alleys and the shelters. But we will not be there alone; Jesus is with us, and so are our other siblings in Christ.

ADVOCACY ASK

This week, our immigrant neighbors, parishioners, and loved ones need us to show up and show support. There is less than one month until the Dream Act expires and there are currently bipartisan immigration plans in development. [Call your representatives](#) in Washington, DC and let them know that you support Dreamers and [encourage them](#) to pass a clean Dream Act.

You can also [volunteer](#) with our partner the [New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice](#) or with [organizations in your local community](#).

PRAYER

Blessed are You, Lord Jesus Christ.

You crossed every border between Divinity and humanity to make your home with us. Help us to welcome you in newcomers, migrants, and refugees.

Blessed are You, God of all nations.

You bless our land richly with goods of creation and with people made in your image. Help us to be good stewards and peacemakers, who live as your children.

Blessed are You, Holy Spirit.

You work in the hearts of all to bring about harmony and goodwill. Strengthen us to welcome those from other lands, cultures, religions, that we may live in human solidarity and in hope.

God of all people, grant us vision to see your presence in our midst, especially in our immigrant sisters and brothers. Give us courage to open the door to our neighbors and grace to build a society of justice. Amen.

(This prayer was adapted from Pax Christi)