



Next Sunday is Transfiguration Sunday – that slightly strange story (I think, or at least I *thought* before I looked into more) about Jesus being lit up on a mountainside with Moses and Elijah. I just never really saw the point of it. It seems there are several points, such as it being a transition between Jesus' ministry and his passion – after this point, all roads lead to Jerusalem and his death. Jewish tradition had it that Moses and Elijah would return to herald the coming Messiah, so that's why they are on the mountain and not anyone else. It's a metaphor for change – Jesus is transformed, the disciples are transformed by witnessing it, we can be transformed by following Jesus. And so much more – I could probably bore you to tears about the transfiguration since I've had to prepare a service on it for somewhere else.

But I was struck by two things that are related to the theme – one is the painting above (called Transfiguration), by a young artist of Turkish origin living in London, Armando Alemdar Ara. This painting focuses purely on the light and its transformative action, rather than on the fear of the disciples as most traditional painting do – I like that – **light not fear**.

The other was a UCC daily devotional:

'It is a peculiarity of light that it stops being itself if it stops moving. Unlike most things, light literally becomes something else if it's not radiating. Light isn't any use (to a human, anyway) unless it's bouncing off something and hitting you in the eye. Glory's like that, too. Unascribed glory isn't glory; it isn't anything. Glory just isn't itself unless it's traveling, unless you're giving it away. Keep it to yourself, and it is nothing, does nothing, cannot signify.

Shine it at an unworthy target, and it just dies.

Focus it, however, shine it on the right thing, and it can light your path all the way home.

Give it to God, and the whole world will blossom with beauty.'

"No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others..."