



St. Paul's UMC Streaming Service@8:30am
Sunday, August 30, 2020
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
"Who?"

Pastors: The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Sterling & The Rev. Chad Bogdewic
Organist/Pianists: Alaine Fink & Corinne Fink-Adkins
Tech: Dave Hochendoner, Robb Montgomery, & Teresa Shepard

Prelude¹ "Go Down, Moses" Alaine Fink, organ & Corinne Fink-Adkins, piano
From "A Symphony of Spirituals for Piano and Organ," arr. Joel Raney © 2001 Hope Publishing Co.

Greeting and Call to Worship² Pastor Jeff

One: Holy, holy, holy.

All: Holy God is here.

One: Holy, holy, holy.

All: Love has called us here.

One: Holy, holy, holy.

All: We gather to worship our holy God.

Opening Prayer²

Holy God, we come this day, into this sacred moment and this sacred space, aware that your holiness is always around us. As Moses before us, when we turn aside from our daily tasks, and we listen for your holy voice, speak to us in holy mystery. Surround us with your wondrous love, that we might be wise enough to understand your call and be brave enough to follow your path. Through our Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Announcements, Concerns of the Community, and Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Anthem "Great Is The Lord" Ella and Emma Gardner, violins & Candace Robinson, piano
Recorded 4/28/19; Words and Music by Michael W. Smith & Deborah D. Smith ©1982 Meadowgreen Music Co.

Scripture Lesson: Exodus 3: 1-15 (NRSV)

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

The Word Proclaimed "Who?" Pastor Chad

Music for Meditation¹ "The God of Abraham Praise"
*Tune: LEONI, Hebrew melody, Sacred Harmony, 1780;
arr, Mark Hayes © 2014 Lorenz Publishing Co.*

Prayer for Justice Pastor Jeff

Benediction Pastor Chad

Postlude Hymn¹ "In the Desert, on God's Mountain"
*Words by Susan Palo Cherwien © 1989, admin. by Augsburg Fortress;
Tune: LAUDA ANIMA) by John Goss, 1868: arr, Samuel Metzger
© Birnamwood Publications, a division of Morningstar Music Publishers*

All are invited to sing along at home.

In the desert, on God's mountain, Moses saw the bush aflame, wondered at the fiery foliage, heard the crackling call his name. May we notice bushes burning; may we wonder at the flame.

On Mount Horeb Moses halted, stood unshod on holy ground, felt the pulsing of God's presence, senses the holiness around. May we stop amid life's labor; may we honor holy ground.

"I AM THAT I AM has called you," spoke the incandescent voice. Moses felt the message searing to the heart of will and choice. May we pause to answer summons; may we hear God's burning voice.

Far from deserts, far from mountains, yearns a bound humanity. Filled with fire of holy grounding, burning bushes may we be, drawing all to God's bright presence – beacons of divinity.

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