

Shelter Island Presbyterian Church



The angel of God appeared to him in flames of fire blazing out of the middle of a bush. The bush was blazing away but it didn't burn up. God called to him from out of the bush, "Moses!, Don't come any closer. Remove your sandals from your feet. You're standing on holy ground." Moses hid his face, afraid to look at God.

Exodus 3:2-6

THE DAY OF THE LORD

July 12, 2020

9:00 a.m.

We Gather in God's Name

Chimes

Prelude

“Adagio in D Major”

James Hook

Welcome and Announcements

***Call To Worship**

Let me hear what the Lord will speak.

**For God will speak peace to the people,
to those who turn to the Lord in their hearts.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet.

Righteousness and peace will embrace each other.

Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear the Lord!

Let us worship God.

***Prayer of Confession**

God of grace we dare to confess our sin to you because you welcome us
as we are. We admit that we seek after our own needs rather than looking
Out for the needs of others. We extend hospitality to those we already know.
We fail to stand up for what is right. We do not live as faithful disciples.
Forgive us, and make us new. Empower us to live and follow you. Amen

***Silent Prayer of Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response**

“Glory Be to the Father”

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen*

Passing of the Peace

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ, be with you.

And also with you

Let us greet each other saying; ‘May the peace of Christ be with you.’

Anthem

“I Wander By the Sea”
Glenn Waddington, baritone

Dale Wood

We Listen for God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Responsive Reading

Psalm 34:4-8,10-12,17-22

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 2:23-25,3:1-10

Sermon

The Turning Point

Rev. Robert Griffin

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

We Go Forth to Serve in God’s Name

Benediction

Postlude

“Allegretto in C Major”

James Hook

Cover art: *Burning Bush*, Sebastian Bourdon (1616-1671), French,
Oil on Canvas, Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia

Special Thanks to Glenn Waddington

*Please rise if able.

Responsive Reading

I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.
Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.

This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing.

The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

The righteous person may have many troubles,
but the Lord delivers him from them all;

**Evil will slay the wicked; the foes of the righteous will be condemned.
The Lord will rescue his servants;
no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.**

Old Testament Reading

Many years later the king of Egypt died.

The Israelites groaned under their slavery and cried out. Their cries for relief from their hard labor ascended to God:

God heard their groanings.

God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

God saw what was going on with Israel.

God understood. He knew. He was concerned.

Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. He led the flock to the west end of the wilderness and came to the mountain of God, Horeb. There the angel of God appeared to him in flames of fire blazing out of the middle of a bush. He looked. The bush was blazing away but it didn't burn up.

Moses said, "What's going on here? I can't believe this! Amazing! Why doesn't the bush burn up?"

When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

He said, "Yes? I'm right here!"

God said, "Don't come any closer. Remove your sandals from your feet. You're standing on holy ground."

Then he said, "I am the God of your father: The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob."

Moses hid his face, afraid to look at God.

God said, "I've taken a good, long look at the affliction of my people in Egypt. I've heard their cries for deliverance from their slave masters; I know all about their pain. And now I have come down to help them, pry them loose from the grip of Egypt, get them out of that country and bring them to a good land with wide-open spaces, a land lush with milk and honey, the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite.

"The Israelite cry for help has come to me, and I've seen for myself how cruelly they're being treated by the Egyptians. It's time for you to go back: I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the People of Israel, out of Egypt."

Next Sunday's Story

'Excuses, Excuses, Excuses'

Moses answered God, "But why me? What makes you think that I could ever go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

"I'll be with you," God said. "And this will be the proof that I am the one who sent you: When you have brought my people out of Egypt, you will worship God right here at this very mountain."

Then Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the People of Israel and I tell them, 'The God of your fathers sent me to you'; and they ask me, 'What is his name?' What do I tell them?"

God said to Moses, "I-AM-WHO-I-AM. Tell the People of Israel, 'I-AM sent me to you.'"

God continued with Moses: "This is what you're to say to the Israelites: 'God, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob sent me to you.' This has always been my name, and this is how I always will be known.

"Now be on your way. Gather the leaders of Israel. Tell them, 'God, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, appeared to me, saying, "I've looked into what's being done to you in Egypt, and I've determined to get you out of the affliction of Egypt and take you to the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, a land brimming over with milk and honey.'"

"Believe me, they will listen to you. Then you and the leaders of Israel will go to the king of Egypt and say to him: 'God, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness where we will worship God - *our* God.'

"I know that the king of Egypt won't let you go unless forced to, so I'll intervene and hit Egypt where it hurts - oh, my miracles will send them reeling!—after which they'll be glad to send you off. I'll see to it that this people get a hearty send-off by the Egyptians - when you leave, you won't leave empty-handed! Each woman will ask her neighbor and any guests in her house for objects of silver and gold, for jewelry and extra clothes; you'll put them on your sons and daughters. Oh, you'll clean the Egyptians out!"

Moses objected, "They won't trust me. They won't listen to a word I say. They're going to say, 'God? Appear to him? Hardly!'"

So God said, "What's that in your hand?"

"A staff."

“Throw it on the ground.” He threw it. It became a snake; Moses jumped back - fast!

God said to Moses, “Reach out and grab it by the tail.” He reached out and grabbed it - and he was holding his staff again. “That’s so they will trust that God appeared to you, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”

God then said, “Put your hand inside your shirt.” He slipped his hand under his shirt, then took it out. His hand had turned leprous, like snow.

He said, “Put your hand back under your shirt.” He did it, then took it back out - as healthy as before.

“So if they don’t trust you and aren’t convinced by the first sign, the second sign should do it. But if it doesn’t, if even after these two signs they don’t trust you and listen to your message, take some water out of the Nile and pour it out on the dry land; the Nile water that you pour out will turn to blood when it hits the ground.” Moses raised another objection to God: “Master, please, I don’t talk well. I’ve never been good with words, neither before nor after you spoke to me. I stutter and stammer.”

God said, “And who do you think made the human mouth? And who makes some mute, some deaf, some sighted, some blind? Isn’t it I, God? So, get going. I’ll be right there with you - with your mouth! I’ll be right there to teach you what to say.”

He said, “Oh, Master, please! Send somebody else!”

God got angry with Moses: “Don’t you have a brother, Aaron the Levite? He’s good with words, I know he is. He speaks very well. In fact, at this very moment he’s on his way to meet you. When he sees you he’s going to be glad. You’ll speak to him and tell him what to say. I’ll be right there with you as you speak and with him as he speaks, teaching you step by step. He will speak to the people for you. He’ll act as your mouth, but you’ll decide what comes out of it. Now take this staff in your hand; you’ll use it to do the signs.”

