

Online Gathering for Worship
Junction City United Methodist Church
August 30, 2020

"Burning Bushes from a Social Distance"

Opening

Prelude "Holy Ground" - Malcolm Cartwright

Words of Welcome

Today, let us continue to explore the Path of Jesus for the 21st Century in our lives and in our families, as we come to God in worship.

Opening Song "The God of Abraham Praise"

Opening to the Spirit's Instruction

Scripture Reading (Exodus 3:1-15) Pat Baldwin

3 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. **2** 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. **3** Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." **4** 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." **5** Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." **6** 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.

7 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, **8** 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. **9** The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. **10** So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." **11** But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" **12** He

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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."

¹³ 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?" ¹⁴ 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.'" ¹⁵ 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.

May God's Spirit speak to us today through these words of Scripture, the music we sing and hear, and the message shared this day.

Song "We Will Glorify the King of Kings" (Twila Paris)

Sermon "Burning Bushes from a Social Distance" by Guest Preacher Courtney McHill

Song "Here I Am, Lord" by Dan Schutte, sung by Notre Dame folk choir

Prayers for Our World and One Another

Let us enter now into a time of prayer for one another and for our world. We will do what is called a Bidding Prayer. I will open, and then I will bid your prayers based around various categories. During the silence after each category is bid, I invite you to add your own prayers, either aloud or in silence. I will then close with a prayer, then the Lord's Prayer. Let us be in prayer.

Let us pray now for all who are ill, in hospital or at home, especially those affected by cancer or COVID-19.

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Let us pray now for all medical and emergency services personnel who are responding to the best of their abilities with the resources that they have at hand.

Let us pray now for all those who are hungry or food insecure, and for all community and religious efforts to provide food and shelter.

Let us pray for the leaders of nations around the world, not only regarding their response to this pandemic, but also that they may do everything possible to assure the health and welfare of their citizens.

Let us pray for all school and college governing boards, administrations and staff, all faculty, and students as decisions are made regarding reopening, online learning, and how to offer appropriate and equitable education in a manner that protects the health and safety of all persons.

Let us pray for our friends, family, and neighbors for their health and well-being.

Let us also express our thanks to God for the expressions of love and caring that we have witnessed in our families, communities, and world.

Let us express our gratitude for life and the myriad things that gladden our hearts.

These prayers, spoken aloud or in silence, we lift into the universal embrace of the One who is Love, and we make them in the name of the One who showed us what Love looks like in the flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, and we now join our voices in the prayer he taught us, saying:

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

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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

Prayer Response “You Are My Hiding Place” Maranatha Singers

Benediction “The Blessing” lyrics, adapted

**The Lord bless you
And keep you
May God’s face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord’s Face be turned toward you
And give you peace.**

**May God’s favor be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family and your children
And their children, and their children.**

**May God’s presence go before you
And behind you, and beside you
All around you, and within you
God is with you, God is with you.
In the morning, in the evening
In your coming, and your going
In your weeping, and rejoicing
God is for you, God is for you.**

Closing Song “The Blessing” - India - (A Taste of Heaven)

Closing Credits