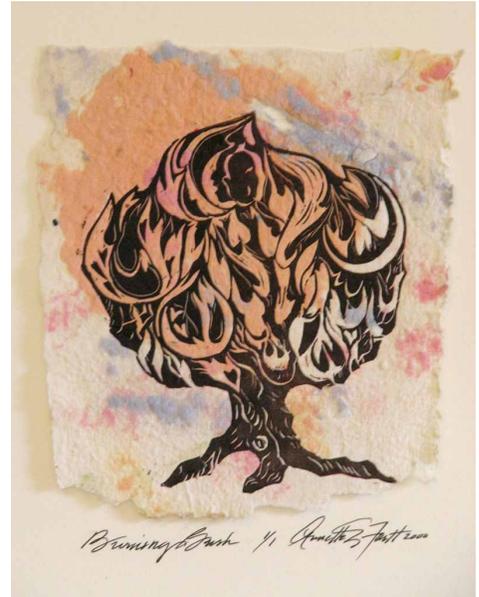


Unsettled but Unafraid: A Liturgy for Worshipping at Home

Week of August 30, 2020

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

Although we are not able to gather in-person for worship, we are able to gather in spirit. This liturgy is designed to be used alongside the worship video, although it can be used on its own. Use it individually or as a family. If you are using it in a family setting, consider giving each person one part to lead. If using individually, try to carve out 10-minutes to quietly read, reflect, and pray through. No matter how you worship, God will show up. Liturgy this week was compiled by Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin.



Call to Worship¹ *(included in video)*

From whirlwind and burning bush,
in still of night and in sheer silence—

God calls the faithful to sacred work.

Beckoning us to turn aside,
inviting us to stand on holy ground—

God welcomes the faithful into sacred space.

Come, God is calling.

Let us worship the Lord!

Scripture - Exodus 3:1-15 *(included in video)*

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

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

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

¹ This weeks Call to Worship comes from *Call to Worship, Lectionary Aids 2019-2020, Year A*, published by the Office of Theology and Worship of the PC(USA), p 158.

The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending 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?”

And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”

God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’

“This is my name forever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation.

Questions for Reflection

1. God finds Moses on a mountain. In your day to day life, where do you find God?
2. Moses sees the bush burning and he is curiosity in piqued. How is God piquing your curiosity these days? What is God drawing you towards?
3. Put yourself in Moses bare feet standing in front of that bush that appeared to be on fire but was not bringing up. What was that like? Were you afraid? Were you in awe?
4. God says to Moses, “I am who I am.” Who was God to Moses? Who is God to you?

Prayers of the People & Lord’s Prayer² (included in video)

²The Prayers of the People included in this week’s liturgy was adapted from from a prayer included in the Book of Common Worship, 2018, p. 104.

God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
God with us, yesterday, today, and forever, in our pilgrimage on the way to unity,
Christ our peace walk beside us!

Open our eyes, open our hearts
to your presence among us.
We thank you for those who have gone before us,
martyrs who have suffered for their faith,
and all your servants who live now and forever in the light of the risen Christ.

We pray for this country and for this region of the world.
For the churches and faithful gathered in person and online in your name.
We thank you for our baptism into Christ
in whom we are one.
May it encourage us to witness together to your word
and to your presence today and tomorrow!

We pray for those who work
for the unity of your church
here and through all the world
and who never cease to pray:
“Father, make us one.”

Lord make us one in our faith,
our witness and our work:
that our witness may be more convincing;
that our service may be more effective;
that one day we may join you
as your one people, at your table.

We pray for those who are discouraged
and left behind by life,
who have no hope
and nothing to hope for.

We pray for those who live in fear,
who suffer violence in their homes
and know not where to turn.

We pray for those who live in the midst of plenty
yet find no meaning to life.

We pray for those facing death
and for those who mourn.

Make us instruments of peace,

agents of justice and reconciliation
and bearers of hope as we say together the prayer Jesus taught us:

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.*

A Prayer for the Week:

God who finds us,
call out to us this week from the bushes,
from the crinkly leaves
and from swaying twigs.
Empower us to embrace our curiosity
about you,
about the call you write on our hearts,
and about your love for the world.
For you are "I am,"
and "I am" will be with us always.
Amen.