



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

13th Sunday after Pentecost
August 30, 2020



SERVING THIS MORNING:
Music Director: Dr. Greg Turner
Worship Leader: Bill Martin
Song Leader: Linda Jackson

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Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP:

The God of our ancestors calls us to worship.
Praise the Lord!
Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Let us worship God!

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

God of mystery and might,
whose wonderful works are to be remembered,
move in our lives, change our minds, soften our hearts,
direct our feet,
that we may follow you more faithfully.
Yes, Lord, we seek to follow Jesus,
in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Exodus 3:1-15

¹ 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. ² 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. ³ So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up." ⁴ 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." ⁵ "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending 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 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." ¹³ 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?" ¹⁴ 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.' "

¹⁵ 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.

1. *All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, Alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam, and silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*
2. *O rushing wind that art so strong, you clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, Alleluia!
O rising morn in praise rejoice, O lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*
3. *O flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your Lord to hear,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
O fire so masterful and bright, providing us with warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*
4. *All you who are of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part,
sing praises, Alleluia!
All you who pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on him cast your care,
O Praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*
5. *Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One,
O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Jesus Christ overcame evil with good
so that all people might be saved from sin.
Let us then confess our need for grace,
confident of God's forgiveness.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

God of mercy,
we confess that, like the disciples,
we set our minds not on divine things
but on human things.
Doubting your loving care, we grab for
more than we need.
Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink
from living as your followers.
Doubting your loving plan, we become
stumbling blocks in your creation.
Forgive us that we may gain new life in you,
for it is in Jesus' forgiving name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:

Jesus took up his cross for our salvation.
In return for our old life of sin,
he promises a new life of grace.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us offer and receive the peace of Christ as a sign of
God's grace and assurance of forgiveness.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Listening God, you heard the prayers of the Israelites.
Hear now these prayers, both spoken and silent:

For peace where there is conflict . . .
For food where there is hunger . . .
For hope where there is despair . . .
For health where there is sickness . . .
For faith where there is fear . . .
For life where there is death . . .

We pray in the name of Jesus,
who conquers all that would defeat us
and gives us new life. **Amen.**

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 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.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

Holy Spirit,
who spoke to Moses from the burning bush,
speak to us now in the reading and proclaiming
of your word. **Amen.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not think you are superior. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

SERMON:

"Standing on Holy Ground"

Rev. Dr. Jared Witt

THE CONFESSION OF 1967: THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The new life takes shape in a community in which we know that God loves and accepts us in spite of what we are. We therefore accept ourselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

The new life does not release anyone from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, fear. We still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as we mature in love and faithfulness in our life with Christ, we live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

THE RECEIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Holy God of holy ground,
like Moses, we question our fitness to serve
heaven's purposes on earth.
Overcome our qualms with the assurance
of your presence;
bless these offerings that, through them,
we may do your will;
in the name of the triune One. **Amen.**

1. *Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

2. *Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.*

3. *Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.*

4. *Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holt! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Household Prayers

Morning

God of love,
today help us to live peaceably with all.
Help us live in genuine love:
to love our neighbors as ourselves,
and to love you, O God,
with our whole heart, mind, and strength.
In Jesus' loving name. Amen.

Evening

Holy God,
because you have been with us this day,
we have stood on holy ground. Thank you.
We know that you will remain with us through this night. Thank you.
We know that you will be with us again tomorrow. Thank you.
In Jesus' holy name. Amen.