

AUGUST 9, 2020
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE — *The God of Abraham Praise*

LEONE

Text by Moses Maimonides (12th Century) and David ben Judah (15th Century)
to form a medieval Hebrew statement of faith.

CALL to WORSHIP

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

All: God calls the faithful to sacred work.

One: Beckoning us to turn aside, inviting us to stand on holy ground

All: God welcomes the faithful into sacred space.

One: Come, God is calling.

All: Let us worship God together!

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Compassionate God, who hears the cries of the oppressed, you call us to resist evil and hold fast to what is good, to take up the cross and commit our lives to the cause of love. But we are afraid to confront powers that privilege some and diminish others. We are overwhelmed by how much there is to do and large problems that seem too big for us. We do not want to lose the security we enjoy. Forgive us. Merciful God, open our ears to hear your voice. Open our eyes to look upon neighbors in need. Open our souls to be able to receive help ourselves. Open our hearts to respond to the world with compassion, that we might follow the way of Christ.

(Time for silent prayer and confession.)

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Friends, take comfort in the assurance that even those things that are hidden from memory, or are too deep for our words, are not beyond God's forgiving love. God, who knows us completely, bestows pardon and peace.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!

SCRIPTURE READING — Exodus 3:1-14

¹ 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 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.’”

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

AFFIRMATION of FAITH - from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. We trust in God, the Holy Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles, rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

PAUSE for PRAYER

At this time, we invite you to take out a piece of paper and a pen, or talk with the people you are worshipping with today, and answer at least one of the following questions as we prepare to turn to God in prayer.

- 1) As God appeared to Moses in a burning bush, how has God unexpectedly appeared to you in your life?
- 2) Where is God calling you to go or what is God calling you to do that may be unexpected?
- 3) How have you responded to God's call for you in the past and in the present?

POSTLUDE — *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky* – text and music by David Schutte (1981)

HERE I AM

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla – Associate Pastor

Molly Ramsey – Pastoral Intern

Tim Carpenter – Director of Music

Elizabeth Lester-Abdalla – Liturgist

Prelude – Organ: Jason Vodicka

Postlude – Guitar: David Feily (from the album “Catholic Songs for Mass”); Singers: Fran Akelewicz, Carol Carpenter, Sara Carpenter, Charlie Guenzel, Peggy Guenzel, Karl Helland, Drew Hunger, Betsy Jurey, Eric Moyer-Harrington, Jenni Moyer-Harrington, Andrew Neiman, Courtney Neiman, Greg Neiman, Madison Neiman, Nancy Powers, AK Rosenbaum, and Kathryn Thomas.

Damon Miller – Communications Coordinator

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