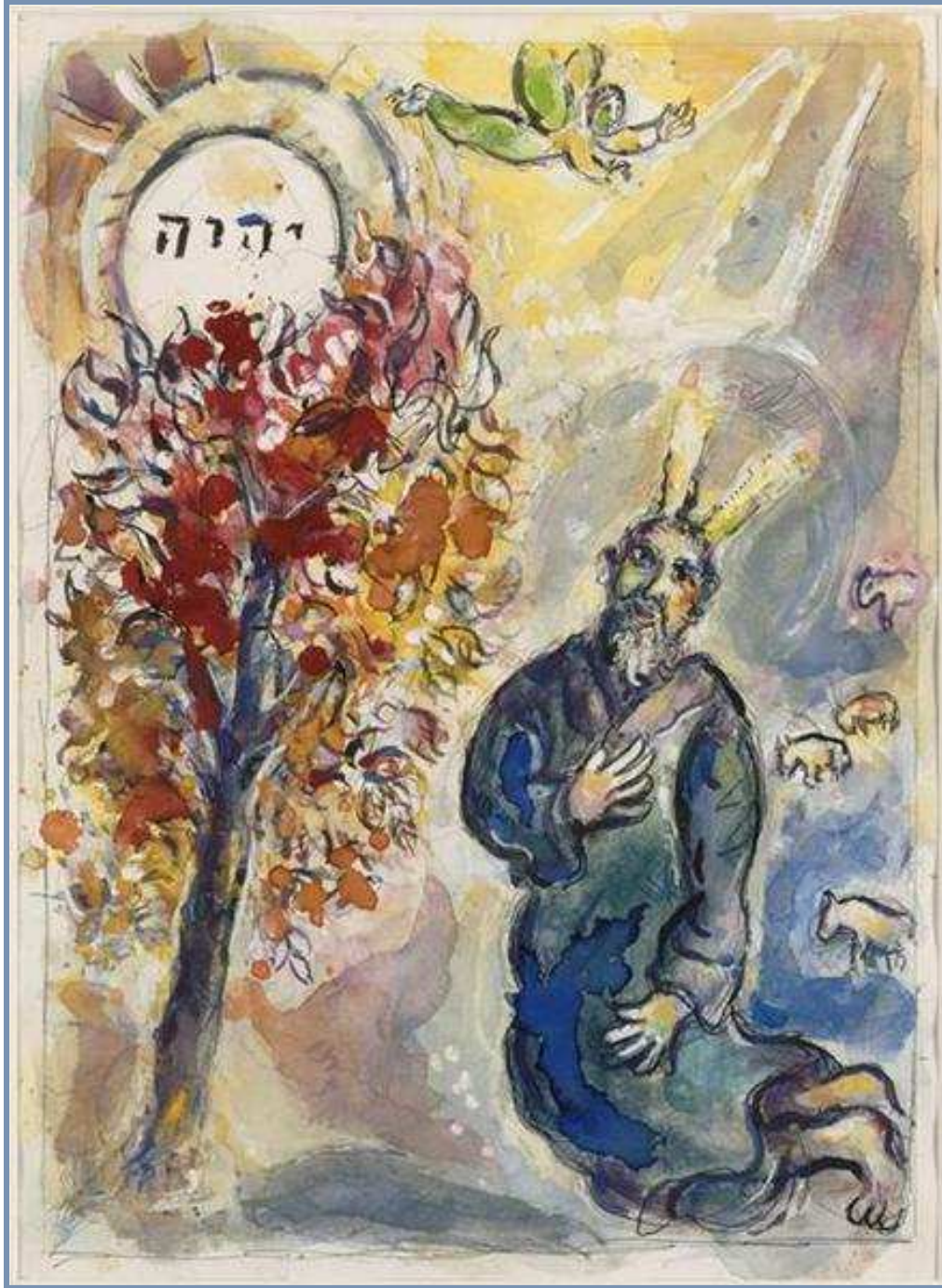


KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 30, 2022



We all want to be certain, we all want proof, but the kind of proof we tend to want — scientifically or philosophically demonstrable proof that would silence all doubts once and for all — would not in the long run...answer the fearful depths of our need at all.

It is not objective proof of God's existence that we want but...the experience of God's presence. That is the miracle that we are really after. And that is also, I think, the miracle that we really get.

*— "Message in the Stars", **The Magnificent Defeat**, Frederick Bucchner*



Today's sermon on Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush won't have time to address the *covenant theology* by which the whole of Scripture can be framed—that is, God's absolutely free choice to be God *for us, with us, and among us*, faithful in the promises made to us even in the face of our faithlessness. There are covenants made throughout Scripture, such as Abraham, and reaffirmed in Isaac and Jacob, and later in Exodus, Moses. A covenant in the ancient Near East (an archeological term for the geographical area during the Bronze and Iron Age, within which most of the Biblical stories occur) was a promise that carried significant consequences. The unique narrative of Scripture is that God makes a covenant with us, and when we're unfaithful, we are not asked to bear the full cost, but instead comes at great cost to God's self, culminating in Christ's death on the cross. As a covenant people, Jesus says we are to be people who speak truth in love, whose "yes should be yes, and our no, no." Christian theology views marriage as a covenant pointing to the love of God in Christ Jesus.

The committee tasked with prayerfully discerning and then executing the promises of the 75th Anniversary Campaign is called the Covenant Committee. By covenant, our committee is promising to be good stewards of our congregation's gifts, to honor the vision and spirit of the campaign, and most importantly to glorify God for the building up of the church community and the healing of the world God loves. Today, you'll hear from our Co-Chairs, Nancy Lau and Rick Llope, who will offer an update. We will do our best to communicate as regularly, clearly, and transparently as possible. Please know that the ruling board, the Session, and the Trustees, will be involved throughout the process and will also keep the congregation informed. In the meantime, please pray for the work ahead, volunteer to help in whatever way you can, and trust the God who makes a covenant with us in Christ Jesus, to be with us even unto the "end of the age." **Question: How can you be a "covenant person" today/this week with God's help?**



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

9:00 & 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

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. — Exodus 3:12

THE GATHERING

THE CARILLON

OPENING VOLUNTARIES

Largo, from Concerto in D minor

Antonio Vivaldi

* *Please rise in body or spirit at the ringing of the tower bell.*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

This is the day that the LORD has made,

Let us rejoice and be glad!

Let us worship the Living God!

* INTROIT

Dulce Carmen

Lead us, heavenly Father,
Lead us o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but thee,
Yet possessing every blessing,
If our God our Father be.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 49

The God of Abraham Praise

Leoni

* CALL TO CONFESSION

To open our hearts to God is to risk vulnerability, judgment, and condemnation. But throughout the scriptures, we learn that God is merciful and just, slow to anger, and eager to forgive. Let us then risk our confession, first in silent prayer.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of tender mercies, we admit that sometimes we don't know what to do with ourselves. We anger at the slightest insult and imagine great vengeance upon those who wronged us. We laze about in the good news of our faith and do not consider the deep commitment of faith. We care for ourselves but not for others. Forgive us, we pray, help us to repent, and make us whole.
(silent prayer)

* KYRIE ELEISON

Orthodox

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in loving kindness
and not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is God's loving kindness toward us.
As far as the east is from the west, so far have our
transgressions have been removed from us
Hear the Good News!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

* GLORIA PATRI

Greatorex

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

Update from the Covenant Team

Nancy Lau, Rick Llope

WORD WITH THE CHILDREN (9:00 a.m.)

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.

*Following the Word with the Children, children and youth ages 4 through grade 8 will be dismissed
for Sunday School.*

PRAYER

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

Go Before Us, O Lord

Andrew Carter

Go before us, O Lord, in all our doings
with your most gracious favor,
And further us with your continual help,
That in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you,
We may glorify your holy Name,
And finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THANKSGIVING

* HYMN 42

Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure
Stanzas 1 and 4

Winchester New

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Our giving is an offering to God. All offerings, whether made in the worship service or outside of it, are part of our worship of God and are used to support the Kirk's ministry here and in other parts of the world.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* ANTHEM

Go Down, Moses

Roger Ames

When Israel was in Egypt's land,
Let my people go.
Oppressed so hard they could not stand,
Let my people go.
*Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land.
Tell old Pharaoh, "Let my people go."*

Ah, go down, Moses, away down in Egypt's land.
So Moses went to Egypt's land,
He made that Pharaoh understand,...
Go down, Moses...

"Thus saith the Lord," bold Moses said,
"He said, 'Let my people go.
If not, I'll smite your firstborn dead,' he said,
'Let my people go.'"

* DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Old Hundredth

THE WORD

CHORAL PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (10:30 a.m.)

Gauntlett

Lead us to Christ, the living Way,
nor let us from his pastures stray.
Lead us to holiness, the road
That we must take to dwell with God,

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 3:1-6; 9-15; Matthew 16:1-4
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Where God Leads: Moses

Rev. Edwin Estevez

THE SENDING

* RECESSIONAL HYMN 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Cwm Rhondda

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*** CHORAL ORISON**

He Leadeth Me

He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
He leadeth me, he leadeth me;
by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Closing Voluntary

Paul Manz

Worship/Music Notes

Today we continue with our sermon series “Where God Leads” as worship opens with a prayer, *Lead us, heavenly Father*, for God to lead, guard and keep us through life’s trials. A plain chant melody harmonized by William Henry Monk, this ties in with another chant, a Russian orthodox Kyrie. The other service music for this sermon series, are prayers and assurance of God’s direction in our lives: the Choral Prayer for Illumination *Lead us to Christ, the living Way* and the Choral Orison *He Leadeth Me*. Today’s first hymn, *The God of Abraham Praise*, is an adaptation of a Jewish melody and text – the liturgical Jewish prayer ‘Yigdal’ was translated into English and given more of a Christian focus and harmonized by Thomas Olivers in 1770. A continuation from last week’s focus on Abraham and Sarah, we see the nature of God as The “I AM” in this week as he speaks to Moses and charges him to deliver his people.

In our choral call to prayer, *Go before us O Lord*, English composer, conductor and arranger Andrew Carter sets this text from the Book of Common Prayer. Just as Moses looked to God to give him the strength to bring his people out of Egypt, so too do we look to the God of Abraham for his “continual help” and “gracious favor”.

To prepare to receive the offering, together we sing *Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure*. With text by Joy F. Patterson (1989), this hymn is a paraphrase of the latter part of Psalm 145, that celebrates God’s providential care for all those in need or trouble. And as the Israelites did, we join in the song of praise to bless God’s name: “My mouth shall speak your praise, O Lord!”

Our offertory is *Go down Moses*, a spiritual believed to have been written around 1800 by slaves inspired by the biblical story of the Jews’ liberation from slavery in Egypt. The song has also become part of the Passover story, as there are parallels between the histories of Jewish and African American peoples. The text uses biblical imagery expressing the desire for a release from bondage, and the music is marked by its strong tone of determination in the struggle for freedom. This arrangement by Roger Ames starts in a hushed and whispered tone and builds into a strong proclamation of hope in a hopeless time.

Our final hymn, *Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah*, with text by William Williams, is filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew scripture that gives a sense of God’s guidance through strife. As we sing, we affirm the reality that God provides for us and redeems all wrong in the world. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and Moses, who provided for the Hebrew people wandering amidst “barren lands” with “Bread of Heaven” is still and ever will be a God who shows the sign his love for us, in Jesus Christ.

Stephen Ministers are available for personal, confidential prayer in Melrose Chapel (to the left, when facing forward in the sanctuary) immediately following service each Sunday. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer please contact Nancy Lau at 248-835-6691.



Tour Kirk in the Hills each Sunday! Those interested in a brief tour are asked to meet in the Baptistry, to the right of the Chancel, after the 10:30 a.m. service. See an usher for direction or further details.

About today's cover art

Moses and the Burning Bush | Marc Chagall (1887-1985) | Public Domain

Chagall was a Russian-French artist. An early modernist, he was associated with several artistic styles and created works in a wide range of artistic formats including painting, drawings, book illustrations, stained glass, ceramics, stage sets and tapestries.

Join us for coffee and fellowship in Heritage Hall after the 9:00 a.m. worship service!

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Go Down, Moses Roger Ames © 2014 GIA Publications, Inc.

From left to right: Rev. Angela Ryo, Rev. Edwin Estevez, Rev. Kelsey Sorge



We envision a world where every heart experiences God's transforming love.



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