



Then Jesus said to his disciples,
"Whoever wants to be my disciple
must deny themselves
and take up their cross
and follow me.
Matthew 16:24

Central's mission:
Love God, love others, and serve the world

August 30, 2020
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Musical Gift

Come, Thou Almighty King

Smith

Welcome and Announcements

Robbie Hudgeons

Opening Prayer

Rev. Miriam Smith

Hymn #419 "I Am Thine, O Lord"

Crosby

1. I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, and it told thy love to me;
but I long to rise in the arms of faith and be closer drawn to thee.

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where thou hast died.

Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious, bleeding side.

2. Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord, by the power of grace divine;
let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, and my will be lost in thine.
3. O the pure delight of a single hour that before thy throne I spend,
when I kneel in prayer, and with thee, my God, I commune as friend with friend!
4. There are depths of love that I cannot know till I cross the narrow sea;
there are heights of joy that I may not reach till I rest in peace with thee.

Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles' Creed*

Robbie Hudgeons

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic* church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**universal*

Time of Prayer

Rev. Miriam Smith

**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 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 for ever. Amen.**

Central Reflection

Anne Stephenson

Children's Message

Debbie Looney

—[Prayer]

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message — “Looking for Our Way”

Rev. Miriam Smith

Praise

†

1. Holy Spirit, living breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause your word to come alive in me; give me faith for what I cannot see.
Give me passion for your purity; Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.
2. Holy Spirit, come abide within, may your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover every sin, in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least, gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace; breath of God show Christ in all I do.
3. Holy Spirit, from creation’s birth, giving life to all that God has made.
Show your power once again on earth, cause your church to hunger for your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise; lead us on the road of sacrifice.
That in unity the face of Christ will be clear for all the world to see.

Benediction and Blessing

Rev. Miriam Smith

Musical Gift

Joy Unceasing and Infinite Praise

Birchwood

Bible Reading for September 6

Exodus 3:1-15 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. ²There 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. ³Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴When 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." ⁵Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶He 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. ⁷Then 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, ⁸and 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. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹²He 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." ¹³But 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?" ¹⁴God 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.'" ¹⁵God 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.

Discussion Questions

- *We are going to spend September journeying through the wilderness with the Hebrew people. It all begins with the people crying out to God, and God answering their prayers with an unlikely leader. How would you react to being called out by God like Moses was?*
- *When have you cried out to God and received an answer?*
- *We hear God tell Moses his name is "I AM," what does that mean to you?*

I would love to hear about what God is showing you in your reading. Call 256-353-6941 or email miriam@centralunitedmethodist.com to let me know your thoughts before next Sunday.



Love GOD



Love OTHERS



SERVE the World



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