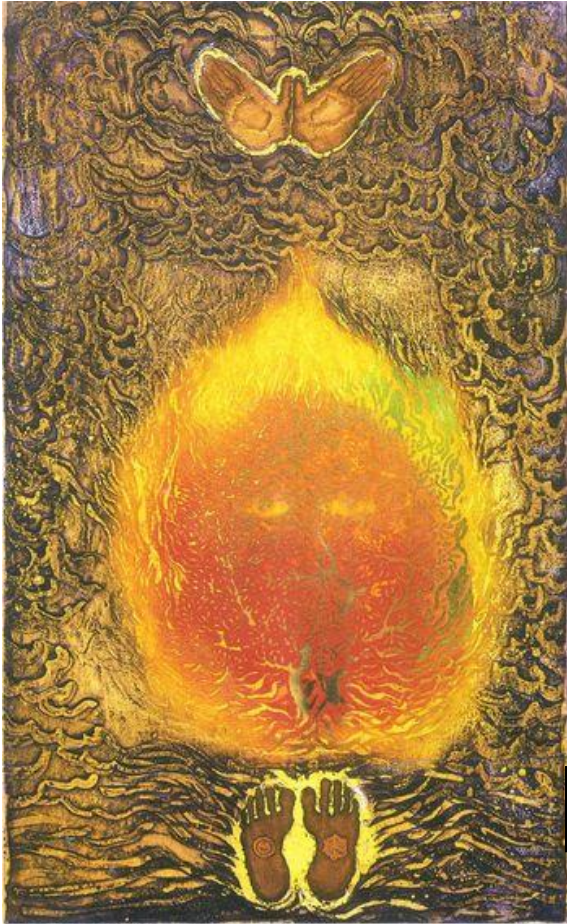




Paul Koli
The Burning Bush

Worship –

August 30, 2026

First Presbyterian Church,
McAllen, Texas

Opening Sentences

- God said to Moses: *I AM WHO I AM*. This is the name of the Lord forever.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

O give thanks to the Lord.

We call on God's name.

Make known the deeds of our Creator.

We will sing them into the world.

Sing to God, O people –

we will sing praise –

to tell of God's wondrous works,

and give thanks for so many miracles.

Come and seek the presence of the Lord –

and glory in God's holy name.

Let the hearts of all who seek the Holy rejoice,

for God brings strength to all the people.

Praise God for this holy ground,
place and people, sight and sound.

Refrain: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

God's goodness is eternal.

Praise God in whose word we find
food for body, soul, and mind. *Refrain*

Praise God who through Christ makes known
all are loved and called God's own. *Refrain*

Praise God's Spirit who befriends,
raises, humbles, breaks, and mends. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

God of mystery and might,
whose wonderful words 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.

Call to Confession

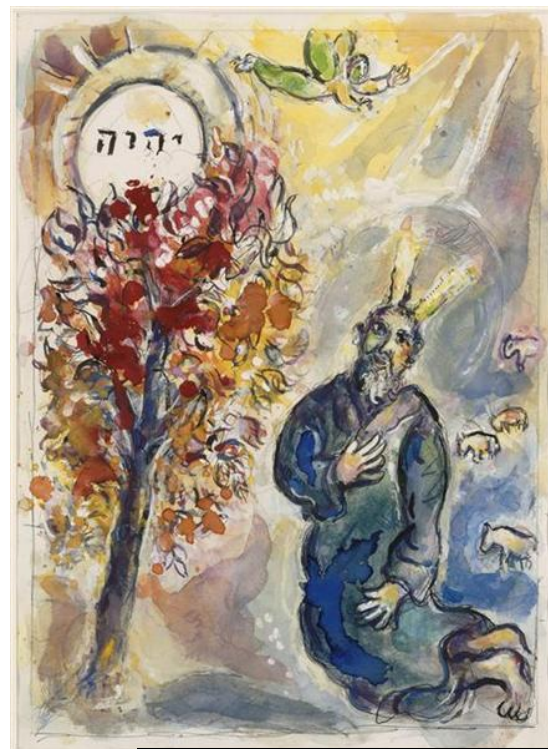
Amid the countless things
that human beings
cannot comprehend about God,
there stands this:
God so loves us
as to bathe us with grace
and feed us with mercy
and forgive us our sins.
Confident in the love of God,
let us pray together.



Domenichino
Landscape with Moses and the Burning Bush

Prayer of Confession

In the midst of your holy presence, O God,
we encounter a mystery
deeper than the foundations of the earth.
You are who you are,
sacred and indefinable.
Forgive us when we try to put you in a box,
or frame you in our own image.
Speak mercy and grace to us,
when we deny the path before us.
Guide us with your shepherding love
when we are unsure how to follow.
Shape us in your divine image
until we become people who say
with courage and conviction:
“Here I am, ready to love and serve.”
In your holy name, we pray. Amen.



Marc Chagall
Moses and The Burning Bush

Assurance of Pardon

We are in the presence of the Holy One,
whose holiness is in our very being.
Friends, hear and trust in the good news of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, healed, and made whole.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Act of Praise The God of Abraham Praise, v. 1

GG #49

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!
The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed,
we bow before your holy name, forever blest.

Passing the Peace The Peace of Christ be with you / **And also with you.**

Time with the Younger Church – *We Don't Eat Our Classmates*

Life of the Church

Prayer for Illumination

Holy Spirit, who spoke to Moses from the burning bush,
speak to us now as your word is read and proclaimed. Amen.

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 Mount 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 God 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 spacious land, to 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 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 God 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 serve 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.” God said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” ¹⁵ God 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 is my title for all generations.”

Anthem

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:21-28

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. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ 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.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ 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? ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ 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 the Lord / **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

adapted from the Confession of 1967 (9.15)

**God’s sovereign love is a mystery
beyond the reach of the human mind.
Human thought ascribes to God
superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.
But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ
by showing power in the form of a servant,
wisdom in the follow of the cross,
and goodness
in receiving sinful men and women.
The power of God’s love in Christ
discloses that the Redeemer
is the Lord and Creator
who made all things
to serve the purpose of God’s love.**

Rick Jacobi
Moses and the Burning Bush

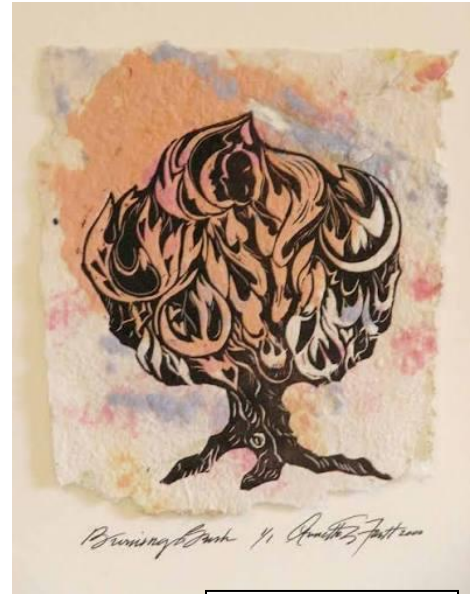


Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;
glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!

Praise God for the grace and favor
shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing our Maker's faithfulness!

Like a loving parent caring,
God knows well our feeble frame,
gladly all our burdens bearing,
still to countless years the same.
Alleluia! Alleluia! All within me, praise God's name!

Angels, teach us adoration; you behold God face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation, dwellers in all time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!



Annette Gandy Fortt
Burning Bush

Prayers of the People / Lord's Prayer

NOTE: There will be a lengthy pause following each prayer petition. You are welcome to offer spoken or silent prayers during those interludes.

Listening God, you heard the prayers of the Israelites.

Hear now our prayer, 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.

Let us pray together as Jesus has taught us, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Invitation to the Offering

With glad and generous hearts, let us share the offerings of our lives
with the Lord of all life.

Offertory

Act of Dedication The God of Abraham Praise, v. 4 GG #49

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name:
the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, you have done marvelous things,
wondrous works for us and for all people.
We offer these gifts
as emblems of our gratitude and joy in your presence.
Use them and us for your ministry in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn O God Who Gives Us Life GG #53

O God who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.

O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
when we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,
refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.

O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response

Praise God for This Holy Ground, v. 5

GG #405

Though praise ends, praise is begun
where God's will is gladly done.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

God's goodness is eternal.

Postlude

Worship Leaders:

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell

Beverly Avila

Robert Garza

Ale Pacheco

FPC Chancel Choir

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Unknown 15th century artist
Moses and the Burning Bush