



Grow, Pray, Study

Servants of Christ United Methodist Parish

— Sunday, August 30, 2020

Grow, Pray, Study ----- for Sunday, August 30, 2020 ---- Exodus 3:1-15

Fire is something that binds our lives together and always has. I am not talking about the negative effects of such a powerful reaction to oxygen and fuel which results in loss of land and property and people.

In our passage today, Moses comes across a burning bush at the foot of Mt. Horeb. Moses will say 'Yes' to God and bring the Israelites out of slavery and into freedom. They will worship at Mt. Horeb and the top will glow with God's fire. A pillar of fire will guide God's people. Fire will consume the offerings in the Temple and a fire will be required to burn continually in the Temple. Fire will descend on the Apostles in Acts. In the Bible, fire always depicts the presence of God.

As we wonder if we will lose power during the hurricane, we are preparing for food. I went early to get dry goods and non-perishables. The good thing is that we have a gas stove which can be lit with a match, and that means we will have hot food if need-be. During one hurricane I experienced, there was only ONE Chinese restaurant with a gas stove and the line was out the door because people needed food!

I think of how bread binds us together. Bread is a staple and one of the things we need during a storm. I think of the fire stone community ovens that baked bread for Jesus and his family. I think of Holy Communion and when we will get to celebrate it again, and hopefully we will remember that fire baked that precious bread. (over please)

I think of how fajitas were created by Mexican gauchos working in Texas in the mid 1800's. They were given tough cuts of meat and the gauchos cut them thin, marinated them, cooked them over fire, and put them in tortillas, also cooked over fire. And Tex Mex cuisine was created!

Thank God for fire. Thank God for his creativity and provision! It got Moses' attention...

---- When have you experienced God's presence in an unlikely place?

---- When has a seemingly unwanted situation turned into a holy situation--- like from wilderness to a mountain where God's people worshipped God?

---- Since fire is everywhere and crucial for our survival, what does that say about God's presence in our lives?

---- What in your life would you like purified? In what ways do you seek freedom from something? God's fire purifies and makes new like a green leaf growing out of the soot of a wildfire.