



The 16th Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Call to Worship

Gathering—We are on holy ground. Come and experience God among us.

Gathering Song

Holy Ground, 654

A Time of Prayer—God, you promise, “I shall be with you.” We give you thanks that you are with us in our time of worship, as we gather on this holy ground, and that you are with us in all places and through all time. Like Moses, we sometimes wonder, “who are we?” as you place a call on our hearts to serve your people. Help us to place our trust in you, knowing that you empower us and equip us to do your work in this world. Grant us courage and strength to answer your call.

The Lord's Prayer (unison)—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.

Exploring God's Word for All Ages

You Can Do This Hard Thing

We Hear God's Word—*Exodus 3:1-15 (NRSV)*

Paula Prange

3Moses 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.

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, 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.’

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?’ 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 for ever,
and this my title for all generations.

Meditation

Who Are We?

Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, 71

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—God works through us to accomplish God’s work in this world, calling us to ease the suffering of our neighbors and to offer hope for a hurting world. May the gifts we bring this day do exactly that.

September Benevolence—Horizon House

Doxology

We Give Thanks—God, work through these generous gifts we bring before you. Use them and multiply them that we might fulfill the mission you have given us here at Zion United Church of Christ. Faithfully guide us in doing your work. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

Hymn

We Are Called to Be God’s People, 580

Benediction—You may ask yourself, “Who am I, God?” when God invites you to do something new, something scary. Know that you have been called and claimed as beloved by our wondrous God, and that God’s promise is true: “I am with you.”

So, go into the world knowing God is with you as you faithfully serve and enrich the world around you. Amen.

Postlude

The Hour of Worship