

# Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 AM

Jul 19, 2020

*Vision Series*

## Ringing of the Bell

**Welcome and Announcements** Rev. Eric Hoey

**Organ Prelude** Kristin Jones, Director of Music

### \*Call to Worship Billie Richert

We've come to worship God, who loved us before we were yet born,  
**who knows us even better than we know ourselves,**  
whose presence never leaves us, and whose love for us never ceases.  
**This is our God. Let's worship together!**

### \*Hymn PH 142 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

1 All hail the power of Jesus' Name!  
Let angels prostrate fall,  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,  
crown Him,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

3 Let every kindred, every tribe,  
On this terrestrial ball,  
On this terrestrial ball,  
To Him all majesty ascribe,  
And crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,  
crown Him,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

2 Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,  
Ye ransomed from the fall,  
Ye ransomed from the fall,  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,  
And crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,  
crown Him,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

4 O that with yonder sacred throng  
We at His feet may fall,  
We at His feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
And crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,  
crown Him,  
And crown Him Lord of all!

### \*Call to Confession

Sisters and brothers, all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.  
We did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but we have received  
a spirit of adoption. Let us then confess our sin with the freedom of children  
who know how deeply they are loved.

### \*Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Merciful God, your creatures cry—creation groans— but we turn away;  
we surround ourselves with noise. We are quick to excuse ourselves  
from responsibility: we are young; we are old; we are tired; we are  
busy. It is hard to imagine that we might make a difference. Life-giving  
God, wash us clean. Restore our imaginations and our hearts. Let your  
courage and compassion flow through our veins until we love with  
abandon and our hands reach out in blessing, for the creation waits  
with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. Amen.**

### \*Assurance of Pardon

Sisters and brothers, hear the word of the Lord. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God says unequivocally, irrevocably: you are my own; you are forgiven; and I need you to be about my business in the world.

**\*Passing the Peace**

Please turn and bow to someone out of respect and love— “The peace of Christ be with you”

**\*Gloria Patri** (PH 579)

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. Amen.

**Prayer for Illumination**

Holy One, you love with a father’s tenderness, a mother’s zeal. Move now in our hearts. Breathe through the words we hear, the songs we share, the burdens we carry, until we discover our purpose in your liberating love, for we long to join creation’s praise and to shine with the mercy of the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**First Reading** Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,” even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

**Special Music** Betty Norment

**Second Reading** Exodus 3:1-12

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. 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. Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” 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.” Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” 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.

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, and 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. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” He 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.”

## Children’s Sermon      Pastor Eric

### **SERMON**      “GO Where God Calls”

Exodus 3:1-4:16

July 19, 2020

- My wife and I enjoy watching many of old musicals that were written during difficult economic times of our society.
- The ones we enjoy the most are the rags to riches stories such as Annie, My Fair Lady, Cinderella, How Succeed in Business without Really Trying, Oliver, Anastasia, and even the newest musical hit, Hamilton.
- There is something about escaping reality and identifying with someone who is struggling in society, and trust into success and notoriety.
- In the same way, the Bible has heroes like Moses:
- But did you know that before he was this giant man of God, that he was a hot tempered murderer, and an insecure person with a low self-esteem?
- When God desires to use a person, he can change all the insecurities that we have, and transform our lives into a person significantly used by God.
- In other words, God does not call the “cream of the crop” to be people called and used by him, but God call those who He chooses for the task.
- This morning I wanted to look at the call of Moses and how God called him and provided every thing he needed to a part of God’s redemptive plan.



When God Calls, God—

#### **1. Grabs Our Attention** (vv. 1-6)

*1 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. 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.”*

- Here we pick up with Moses' life in Midian where he fled from Pharaoh because he had killed an Egyptian over the harsh abuse of a Jewish servant.
- He got married in Midian, and is found in our text tending flocks of his father-in-law.
- God shows up through an angel of the Lord in a burning bush to get the attention of Moses and actually calls his name.
- This is where the call of God begins.
- Not so much with a burning bush, but often God uses a way to get our attention.
- It could be a phrase or word someone said, or a bible study or conference lecture.
- It could be a walk in the park, where you feel very clearly God is getting your attention.
- God could get our attention by a crisis in the world or in your personal life.
- Whatever the way, God has a unique way to get our attention so that we pause, and let God respond.
- EX: At my first church, it was a new church plant from a larger church, where I had been the pastor for 10 years. The mother church was looking for a new pastor, and members of my family had encouraged me to consider the position. I took a half day, to quietly listen to the Lord, and I had thought the answer was no. Until one of the elders from my church told me to consider the position because he told me that I was the right person they needed. This was an unusual request, and quickly got my attention. I thought God was telling me "no," because this was such an unusual request I created time to reconsider. The moment, I did, I came down with chicken pox, and it forced me to stay home for a full week to consider God's call. The chicken pox got my attention!!!!

- Watch what happened to Moses—

*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 he 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.*

- God audibly calls Moses name.
- God tells Moses to take off his shoes and declares that he is on holy ground.
- God then declares who he is.
- This caused Moses to hide his face.
- When God grabs our attention, it become a special holy and sacred time because God initiated His call.

When God Calls, God—

## **2. Tugs at Our Heart** (vv. 7-9)

*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 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. 9 The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them.*

- God communicates to Moses what tugs at his heart...the misery of His people.
- Notice how specific God is:
  1. I have heard their cry,
  2. I know and have seen their sufferings,
  3. I have come down to deliver them to a new land
- See the tension in the story here? God wants to solve this crisis, but we see only half of the story.
- This is like an obvious fill-in the blank question.
- God needs a person called by God to become a part of God redemptive plan.
- However first and foremost, a call of God must include the vision of God's own heart.
- This is the fuel, the drive, the motivation that keeps the person focused upon the task of the call of God.
- Only when God's heart becomes our heart, we can become fully utilized by God
- Moses had to see God's concern for the Hebrew people and God's desire for deliverance
- EX: When I went to my first Mission Conference, on the last night, they had an altar call where they ask everyone believed God was calling them to go overseas as a missionary to stand up. I remember all my friends stood up. I remained seated because I knew deep within my heart, I did not want to go overseas and be a missionary, but I wanted more than ever was to serve the Lord in the local church. That was my tug, to serve God here in the US in the local church where the local church can send people to the remotest parts of the earth.
- So in the process of calling, God will tug at our heart until we step up to the plate and can see ourselves being the vessel used for God.

When God Calls, God—

### **3. Calls a Servant** (vv. 10)

*10 So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."*

- God offers the call, "I will send you."
- If the needs of God are already implanted upon one's heart, the call comes not as a surprise, but a realization that our lives become the fulfillment of the very heart of God.
- EX: I remember when I went to seminary, God had already called me to ministry. In my studies, I had noticed that I was one of the unique students who had already been called to ministry where as my fellow classmates were trying to determine God will by experimenting
- God from the very beginning Genesis throughout the Bible, God is a sending God and His sending nature culminates in sending his son Jesus to earth.
- *John 20:21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."*
- HOWEVER, often times, God calls and the response is not immediate, and in Jonah's situation the call was offered, but the Jonah, the reluctant servant, rebelled.

- In our text when God called Moses, Moses had many questions and many excuses.
- Let's see how God dealt with Moses—

When God Calls, God—

#### **4. Provides Assurances** (vv. 11-12)

EXCUSE: *11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"* (Why me, I'm not good enough)

##### **a. You will have my presence**

*12 He 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."*

- God says to Moses, "I will be with you"
- This means he is not going alone, but Moses will be sent under God's guidance and protection
- EX: I remember a time when Cynthia and I were young parents with 2 kids (not 4) we were exploring a hotel in Lake Arrowhead. I was pushing a double stroller with Jonathan, our youngest at the time, and we were heading toward an elevator, and I turned down another hallway, and my wife turned the other way, and Timothy our oldest who was 2 at the time, stepped onto the elevator, and the doors closed. As the elevator went down, I heard this scream because he was all by himself. I ran down the stairs to meet him at the bottom. By the time I got there, he saw me, and ran to me in tears.
- When you are all alone, it is very fearful.
- In the same way I was the reassurance to my son Timothy, God wants to send people with the full assurance that the Lord will be with them.

EXCUSE: *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?"* (I Don't Have All the Answers)

##### **b. You will be my spokesperson**

*14 God 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.'" 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 my title for all generations.*

- God is saying, that YHWH or the LORD will give you the words to say.
- When you step out to trust God to a task that only you can do, you can be assured that God will give you everything you need to accomplish His will.
- He will give you the exact words to say where I will often catch myself, did I say that?
- EX: When I was very young, I remember God called me become a camp counselor at a Christian camp. For some reason, they placed me in a cabin where the kids were only a couple of years younger than I was. There was time during the camp when a young person poured out their life to me, and asked what should I do? Silently praying, "Oh, Lord give me words to say." You know what, God provides. God will give you the exact words to say.

EXCUSE: *4:1 Then Moses answered, "But suppose they do not believe me or listen to me, but say, 'The LORD did not appear to you.'"* (People won't believe in me)

##### **c. You will have my power**

2 The LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A staff." 3 And he said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw the staff on the ground, and it became a snake; and Moses drew back from it. 4 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Reach out your hand, and seize it by the tail"—so he reached out his hand and grasped it, and it became a staff in his hand— 5 "so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

- In this text, God provides Moses everything he needs to demonstrate the authenticity of the source of Moses message.
- God offers the miraculous tool of his staff becoming a snake and back again to a staff to demonstrate that God is behind his message.
- It is almost as if the Lord is saying to Moses, this is my problem.
- All I need to your willingness, and I will provide all that you what is necessary to accomplish the task.
- The assurance here is that Moses will have all of God's power to authenticate his message.
- EX: I remember once, I was a conference speaker where I had a sore throat to deliver my messages. I remember thinking why did the Lord bring me all the way up Yosemite only for me to feel the way I did? Trying to remain faithful to the task, eating and speaking with throat lozenges and hot water, I got through the event, and burned with fever on the way home.
- God will give you all that you His power to accomplish His purposes.

EXCUSE: 10 *But Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." ...13 "O my Lord, please send someone else"* (I'm a terrible speaker)

- Isn't that interesting? Moses felt inadequate to do the task, and wanted someone else to do it.

*Acts 7:22 So Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in his words and deeds.*

**d. You will have all you need**

14 *Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, "What of your brother Aaron, the Levite? I know that he can speak fluently; even now he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you his heart will be glad. 15 You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do. 16 He indeed shall speak for you to the people; he shall serve as a mouth for you, and you shall serve as God for him.*

- In spite of Moses inadequacies, God provided everything he needed to accomplish the task.
- In this text, we see that God gives Moses a spokes person, his brother Aaron.
- Even when you do not feel up to the task, God has uniquely chosen you to be a part of His redemptive plan, and will provide everything you need to a do the task.
- EX: I remember when God called me to start a new campus ministry at Cal Poly Pomona. I did not know what to do or how to do it, but every step of the way, God provided, directed, and prodded me to make this Christian

Club on campus to become a vibrant organization to use the experience to call me into ministry.

When God Calls, God—

1. **Grabs Our Attention** (vv. 1-6)
2. **Tugs at Our Heart** (vv. 7-9)
3. **Calls a Servant** (vv. 10)
4. **Provides Assurances** (vv. 11-12)
  - a. ***You will have my presence***
  - b. ***You will be my spokesperson***
  - c. ***You will have my power***
  - d. ***You will have all you need***

## **Offering**

God blesses us that we might carry that blessing into the world. Let us give with grateful hearts.

### **\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow.  
Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise him above the heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

God of mystery and grace, you have met us and blessed us with such abundant promise. In gratitude we offer what we carry in our hearts and our pockets. As we bring these worn and freighted offerings, we pray that you would use us, for we come in the name of Jesus and by the movement of your Spirit in this place. Amen.

### **\*Affirmation of Faith** (Apostle's Creed)

*Minister:*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, what do you believe?

*All:*

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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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 Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **Prayers of the People**

Father God, thank you for making us sons and daughters, coheirs with Christ, sisters and brothers of one another, bearing witness with the Spirit that we are the children of God.

We pray for the whole church, that in the field of this world, it may be the good seed that grows into your harvest.

We pray for your whole creation that is waiting in eager longing to be set free from everything that holds it in bondage.

We pray for earth's people, its nations and leaders, that all may come to know the ways that lead to peace.

We pray for those who are ill and for those who are facing death, that they may find hope in the faith that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory to be revealed to them.

We pray for those we know and love, that they may see the bond between them and you and that, wherever they go, you are with them, and now, with confidence as children of God, let us pray:

**Lord's Prayer**

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.

**\*Hymn** PH 403 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!

3 Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge--  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield you;  
you will find a solace there.

**\*Benediction**

**\*Organ Postlude** (please be seated for the postlude)