



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Year A  
August 30, 2020

Key Scripture - Exodus 3: 2b

"... the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed."

Theme - Roaming, Ruminating and Return



*Welcome All*

† Newcomers please sign our guestbook



† Special requests may be made through Facebook



[Contact Us](#)

† Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.

- Trinity is an Affirming Congregation and is inclusive of folk who find themselves a part of what is described as “LGBTQ+”
- Our Congregation is Active in a Ministry of Prayer, Service and Care.

## Welcome and Announcements

This week's Phone Tree Message - 26 August 2020

**But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.**

2 Peter 3:13

We have been waiting for a new way of living fully since early March. We hope that while the new way may have a different form, it will be life-giving and perhaps contain a gift greater than what we once knew. Let us continue to work and to pray to hasten that day.

The "Reopening Trinity Plan" has been approved.

- **Sunday worship will begin on September 13, 2020 in the sanctuary.**
  
- **Capacity and Support**
  - The sanctuary can accommodate 30 "Bubbles."
    - 30 individuals or
    - family units to a maximum of 50 individuals
  - The church "lift" is available
  - One washroom at the sanctuary level will be available
  - Fellowship Hall and other facilities are out of bounds
  
- **Suspended Activities**
  - Communion
  - Fellowship Time
  - Children's programming
  - Congregational singing
  - "Passing the Plate" for Collection

- **Minimizing Exposure**

- Risk assessment information will be available prior to worship
- Health screening station will be set up outside
- Entry, Exit and Movement within the sanctuary will be managed by Ushers
- Post Service Cleaning and Disinfecting will be completed ASAP

- **Communication**

- Posters will be prominently displayed in all critical areas as reminders regarding physical distancing, mandatory mask wearing and hand washing

- Trinity United Church News and Updates -

- **Worship Services are again being broadcast on COGECO**
- Services are available on Trinity's Web Page and FaceBook
- **Sunday's Scripture speaks to Faithfulness in the Face of Failure -**

- **Key Scripture - Exodus 3: 2b**

- **"... the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed."**
- **Theme - Roaming, Ruminating and Return**
  - **Moses was a man who tried to do the right thing but was derailed by one bad decision.**
  - **It may be said that the burning bush was an image of Moses himself ... burned but not consumed.**
  - **Doubtless, he would have said to himself often, "Why didn't I do that differently?"**
  - **Different or not, the challenge to do remained.**

- If a lunch delivered to your home would be helpful, we will serve as we are able. Contact the Office.

- A note from the Stewardship Team
  - Please consider Pre-Authorized Payments (PAR) as a consistent way to support the congregation
  - Grocery / Gift Cards are still available for sale - Contact the Church Office at - 613 283 4444
- Care
  - Please remember your mask when you leave your home.
  - Masks are available at the church Tuesday and Saturday 11:30 am - 12:30 pm.



We are grateful for the Town of Smiths Falls and Lanark County. Take Away Meals are subsidized through the generosity of the Community Grant Program and COVID-19 emergency funds.

Two Guys for Lunch are active partners with us in this community service.

## **Acknowledging Traditional Territory**

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

*Elements of today's Worship Service are drawn and adapted from the Presbyterian Church in Canada online Worship Planner.*

**Introit** MV 85 "Take, O Take Me As I Am"

### **Call to Worship**

Give thanks and tell of God's gifts.

**We will sing praises for all that God has done.**

Let your hearts be joyful!

**We will seek God's presence continually.**

Call to mind God's wonderful works.

**We will remember the blessings of God forever!**

### **Prayer of Gathering**

Deep is our desire for what is true and enduring.

Deep is our need to see clearly.

Deep is our longing for you.

You are the root of love,  
the fountain of knowledge,  
the source of wisdom,  
the path of right living.

You are the beginning and end of all things.

We worship you in humble praise.

Holy God, ever three and ever one.

Amen.

## **Hymn 509 "I, The Lord, Of Sea And Sky"**

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

### ***Refrain -***

***Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.***

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them; They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

### ***Refrain -***

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them; My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

### ***Refrain -***

## **Learning with Children**

When I was in elementary school, I loved the smell of the first day. It was like a new box of crayons. The first day of High School smelled more like polyurethane and Pinesol. These were the smells of everything fresh, new crayons, new scribblers, new pencils, new erasers, refinished gym

floors and sometimes new desks. Everything was shiny and clean. I like the smell of the first day of school more than the smell of a new car.

A week or two before the beginning of school, we would get new sneakers and clothes. September was a wonderful time for fresh smells, new clothes and catching up with friends that we had not seen all summer.

With little differences, your first days back at school would normally be like my first days 55 years ago. But this year is not like 55 years ago. This year is not even like last year. Your first day of school this year might smell like hand sanitizer. **For sure**, your school is going to smell and look sparkling clean and not just on the first day but every day. You might get new clothes too, just like we did a long time ago but this year, your new clothes will include **a face mask**.

Last year, you would have been told about keeping the school safe. Maybe you would be told about the sick room or school nurse, fire drills, bullying, touching and tormenting. This year, there will be even more safety lessons and you will have to keep a distance from each other. Lots of things will be different.

You know what? **Lots of things will be the same too; big important things** - You will still learn, you will still see your friends, you will still be reminded of the rules from time to time ... only some of the rules will be new.

School will still be school, your friends will still be friends, your teachers will still be teachers. The **reason** you go to school will not change. If you like school, you will still like it ... if you do not like school ... well ... That might not change either ... When you are old, you will still remember the smell of the first day of school ... It just might not be the same as a new box of crayons ...

In today's Bible story, we will read about Moses being called to set his people free from slavery. Very often when we read or tell that story, we do it in a way that sounds like this was the first time Moses was called... or that this was the first time he really thought about setting his people free... I think Moses was called all along. I think Moses knew it too... I think Moses thought about it from the time he was a young boy...

Something happened, though, that caused him to step away for a while. Something happened that made him have to learn a *new way* to set his people free, just like you had to step away from school since March and now schools have to learn a new way to do what they were called to do all along.

When Moses was called back, the purpose of his work and life did not change, what did change was the way he had to do it. The story is a little different than it might have been but he still set his people free. COVID-19 will change the way schools and churches do their work, it does not change the fact that we are **called** and have work to do.

### **Childrens' Prayer**

Dear God,

Even when going to school and church may look and smell different. Even when we have to act in a different way and follow new rules, help us to remember those things that never change and that we can always do - to love, to believe, to serve you and each other. Amen.

### **Call to Reconciliation**

We are invited to bring our faults and foolishness, our brokenness and bitterness to God, so we might be made new.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Although you satisfy our deepest desires,  
we confess together that we sometimes turn away -

**We have sought meaning in shallow places.**

**We have clung to old hurts and familiar habits.**

**We have nursed anger and envy.**

**We have been self-absorbed and lacked compassion.**

**Forgive us and guide us toward what we may become  
according to your grace.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Paul declared that from now on, we regard no one from a human point of view. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Everything old has passed away. See, everything has become new!

Thanks be to God that we can all make a new start through God's grace.

**Scripture** Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, (VU828 Parts One and Three); Matthew 16:21-28

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. 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.”

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?” 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.’” 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.

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26 (VU828 Parts One and Three)

***Refrain - Bless God my soul, Hallelujah!***

Give thanks and call on God’s name.  
Make known to the nations what God has done.  
**Sing, O sing the songs of praise;  
tell of all God’s wonderful deeds.**  
Exult in God’s holy name;  
**let those who seek God be joyful in heart.**

***Refrain - Bless God my soul, Hallelujah!***

Turn for help to the One who is your strength;  
seek God’s presence continually.  
**Remember the marvels the Most High has done,  
the wonders and judgements God has given,**  
O children of Abraham and Sarah, God’s servants,\*  
O offspring of Israel, chosen of God.

*Refrain - Bless God my soul, Hallelujah!*

You are the eternal God,  
**your justice reaches every corner of the earth.**  
You are ever mindful of your covenant,  
the promise you gave to a thousand generations,  
**the covenant you made with Sarah and Abraham,  
the oath you gave to Isaac.**  
You confirmed it for Jacob as binding.  
To Israel your everlasting covenant you declared,  
**‘To you I give the land of Canaan,  
as your appointed inheritance.’**

*Refrain - Bless God my soul, Hallelujah!*

When Israel came to Egypt,  
**when Jacob settled in the land of Ham,**  
there you made your people fruitful,  
**stronger than their foes.**  
But when you turned their hearts to hate your people,  
**to deceitful dealing with your servants,**  
then you sent your servant Moses,  
**and Aaron, whom you had chosen.**

*Refrain - Bless God my soul, Hallelujah!*

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. 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.”

**Hymn**     595 "We Are Pilgrims" Verses 1, 4, 5, 6

We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;  
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,  
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too

**Reflection** - Roaming, Ruminating and Return

A few years ago, I bought a 1984 Volkswagen Westfalia. It needed a bit of work. I have had it for three years now and it still needs a bit of work.

One of the things I want to do is to paint it. One obvious option is to have it painted properly. This is something I can do easily. The smart thing to do is to prep it and pay to have it done.

The **smart way** is *just one way*, really. There are *other ways to paint the van too*. In pursuit of another way, I started experimenting with aerosol paints. I painted the sliding door with a few cans of rustoleum. It turned out ok but it was not the colour I wanted. I tried cans of light metallic blue lacquer. I painted right over the rustoleum. The colour looked much better and it was a good job but less than factory quality. Although I like the colour, it does not match the interior, so it is not a good option.

People who paint cars for a living can likely guess that it will be something of a challenge for this story to have a happy ending. I am making a mess of the side of my van but I still want it painted. Rather than the van, I practice on other items. Deck chairs and tables have been painted with aerosol paint to perfect my technique.

Last year I painted the garage and doors of the house with a HVLP sprayer to further practice my technique and the efficacy of the spray gun for painting the van.

I purchased a gravity feed HVLP spray gun to attach to my underpowered compressor. I have experimented with Tremclad or Rustoleum. I painted my motorcycle using Tremclad and Mineral spirits. I painted my wheelbarrow with Tremclad and Acetone. I have experimented with reducers ratios and mixes. I have become an avid student of YouTube “Paint your car for \$50.00 videos.” My next step is to experiment with hardeners... Tremclad is a soft paint... I am running out of lawn chairs, wheelbarrows and motorcycles to practice. If you count time, paint and equipment spent just in practice ... I am some distance from a \$50.00 paint job.

Some may think, “Why don’t you just take the van to somebody who knows what they are doing and get it done right?” This is becoming difficult. My early experiments on the van kind of boxed me in. In order to have it done properly and professionally, the mess I made at the very

beginning has to be sorted out. The bad start makes it a challenge to have a favourable end. A proper paint job is expensive. Fixing mistakes is more so. Professionals are reluctant to apply their skill and reputation to a client's faulty foundation. My mistake will have to be fixed first. This will cost more.

This van will still be painted. ***Not painting it is not an option.*** Doing it the faster and easier way is less of an option now. I will likely think about that a fair bit. I will certainly have the time to think about it because I am in a bit of a mess.

Moses was well positioned to be the agent through whom God would set the Children of Israel free. He was born a Hebrew, his nursemaid was his mother. Moses was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter. He was taught both the language and traditions of his birth and of his adoptive family. Raised in the court of Pharaoh, he would **have power and influence**, he would be **surrounded by power and influence** and he would have **access to power and authority**. He was a Prince. He had power and prestige. He also knew the plight of the children of Israel and was touched by it. Moses was the perfect ambassador for the sake of the Children of Israel. **He was formed for this.** His mother and the Hebrews around him would immediately recognize his potential. **Moses was called from birth. Moses was equipped from birth.** However, all his prestige, influence and access to power was lost in a moment.

Moses killed an Egyptian. Exodus 2:11 When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. Exodus 2:5 Moses became a fugitive. Almost every advantage Moses had was lost. From the palace, he is thrust into the wilderness for 40 years. Moses was in a mess and had time to think. What do you think he thought about? What would you think about? How often do you think he thought about it? How often would you? How often do you think Moses relived the moment he became an outcast? How often do you think Moses thought of that moment he ceased being the perfectly formed agent through which God could set the children of Israel free and became a fugitive in the wilderness? Would this not burn within him?

... 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.”***

Moses was compelled ***“to turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up”*** because in that bush, he saw his own life. Later, we see that the lessons Moses learned in the wilderness were applied to keeping his people alive in the wilderness. That which remained despite the constant flashback to the moment everything changed, that which remained despite this burning within him, was the fact that he was ***always called to be the agent through whom God would set Israel free.*** This burning bush was a representation that this flashback, this reliving of the moment that everything changed, this burning within him could not consume or diminish his call. No matter what, Moses would fulfill his calling. With the loss of the tools and resources of Pharaoh's court, his call remained. In the wilderness Moses learned a new way to fulfill his calling.

We have not met together as a church in person since March 15th. Like Moses, our circumstance changed quickly and dramatically. Like Moses, we were called and formed to ministry before everything changed. Like Moses, it is only our circumstance that changed, ***our calling has not.*** Like Moses, we will continue through a wilderness time and we will emerge ready to fulfill our calling in a different way.

We have been approved to open for worship in modified form on September 13th. We are only permitted to accommodate 30 - 50 people. We will wear masks, we will remain two metres apart and we will not gather for fellowship. Live Streaming, posting services to Facebook and rebroadcast on COGECO - Your TV will continue. Our Outreach and Advocacy ministry will continue differently as we learn. Pastoral Care functions will continue differently as we learn. We will seek new and better ways to fulfill our ministry in our new context. **We are just as called to ministry today as we were March 10th. While we may be**

**preoccupied with discovering new ways of being, our call, our faith,  
our commitment cannot be consumed by any flame.**

**Hymn MV 176 "Three Things I Promise"**

Three things I promise, Holy God,  
in age and youth, in life and death:  
to bless your Name, and cling to Christ,  
and listen for the Spirit's breath.

Your love unfolded time and space,  
and life, and all that life became,  
and so, with thankful heart and voice,  
through good and ill, I bless your Name.

I follow, serve, and cling to Christ  
amid our culture's tides and trends,  
for here your Name is most revealed:  
Majestic Love, and Best of Friends.

Enlivened as the Spirit moves  
to cleanse, awaken, and renew,  
I pray that justice, peace, and truth,  
may seed and grow in all I do.

If I should live when vigour fades,  
and family and friends are gone,  
three acts of loving faith remain  
when days are slow, and work is done.

Revive and guide me, Living God,  
as day by day, until my death,  
I bless your Name, and cling to Christ,

and listen for the Spirit's breath.

**We Respond to God's Word  
Offering Ourselves  
For The Work And Witness Of The Church**

**Invitation to Offering**

As Jesus' followers, we have the privilege of taking part in the work God has begun in the world. Today we offer our gifts in anticipation that God will use them - and us -in that work!

**Trinity Needs Your Help**

During these trying times, Trinity's life and work continues in many ways. While our Sunday services and many other things in our lives are on hold until further notice, and our building is closed, our staff and members are still active and operational costs continue.

There will be no opportunity for the regular collection of offerings each week, so Trinity needs you to share your gifts in a different way. We have 4 options:

1. Please visit the [www.trinityunitedsf.ca](http://www.trinityunitedsf.ca) and use the "DONATE" button. It takes you to [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org) where you can make a safe and secure, one time or monthly donation as often as you want.
2. This may also be a good time to start using Pre-authorized Payments. The form for that is attached to this post and can be printed off and mailed to the church office at 41 Market Street / PO Box 28, Smiths Falls, K7A 2E7
3. We have also set up an e-transfer account to accept your donation. Please use [secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca](mailto:secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca) . Password not required. Please note your envelope number and amount allocated to general church expenses, M&S. and/or capital projects.
4. Of course you can always mail a donation to the church office at 41/ PO Box 28 Market Street, Smiths Falls, ON K7A 2E7

If you require assistance or have any questions about making donations, please do not hesitate to contact the church office at 613-283-4444 or by email at [secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca](mailto:secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca).

Thank you.

## **Offering Prayer**

We offer these gifts to you in hope and thanksgiving. Use them to transform the world you love with the good news we celebrate in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Meditation** "Just As I Am" (Bradbury)

## **Prayers of the People**

We come to you in prayer as the summer season draws nearer to its close and we prepare for an autumn filled with many changes:

We remember those for whom this summer has been difficult:

Those still isolated by the restrictions of COVID-19;

Those who feel forgotten;

Those whose businesses are struggling, who have to figure out how to be inviting and safe at the same time;

And those who are uncertain how to engage with friends and neighbours and still be wise and careful in this strange time of pandemic.

May each one find courage to face tomorrow in your company

Jesus walked the road of suffering with others in pain and grief

We remember those whose lives have faced crisis this summer—

Through unexpected loss,

Through illness or injury,

Through pain or problems.

Surround them with your comfort and compassion

Jesus faced many demands and pressure from his critics,

We pray for those who have not found rest this summer:

For leaders trying to navigate ways forward to care for their communities when there are no examples to follow;

For those whose jobs and responsibilities have changed, and every day presents a new challenge;

And those who seek work in these uncertain times.

May they know your strength and assurance day by day

We need the embrace of your presence, each in our own way.

Bring healing and peace to our lives and to this world.

Open our eyes and our hearts that we may offer healing and peace to those we encounter, in the name of Jesus

We are thankful that we can experience God in a relationship from which we draw strength, courage and encouragement.

The ways of knowing God - Mother, Father, Fiend -

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer;

may be expressed in the prayer Jesus taught us -

### **We Depart to Serve with Joy**

**Hymn** 359 "He Came Singing Love"

He came singing love and he lived singing love;

he died singing love. He arose in silence.

For the love to go on

we must make it our song;

you and I be the singers.

He came singing faith and he lived singing faith;

he died singing faith. He arose in silence.

For the faith to go on  
we must make it our song;  
you and I be the singers.

He came singing hope and he lived singing hope;  
he died singing hope. He arose in silence.

For the hope to go on  
we must make it our song;  
you and I be the singers.

He came singing peace and he lived singing peace;  
he died singing peace. He arose in silence.

For the peace to go on  
we must make it our song;  
you and I be the singers.

### **Benediction**

Take the love of God into the world.

**We will share with everyone we meet.**

Take the grace of Jesus into your communities.

**We will share with those who weep.**

Share the Spirit's community with all this week.

**We will welcome those who feel alone and afraid.**

### **Choral Amen**

**Postlude** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" (Hughes)