



***This Sunday at St. Luke's
October 2, 2022***

8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion (said service)

10 a.m. – Holy Communion (organ and hymns)

In-church, in-parking lot and online

The Sixteen Sunday after Trinity



THE GOD WHO SEES, ACTS AND IS

In the story of Moses at the Burning Bush, God sees the affliction of the enslaved Hebrews, commissions Moses to be their deliverer and reveals the meaning of His most holy name Yahweh (Jehovah): I AM.

Key Verse

“And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; (Exodus 3:7).

OVERVIEW – EXODUS 3

God gets our attention in a variety of ways. Often it is through *things ordinary*, but at times it is through *things extra-ordinary*. The latter seems to be the case with Moses’ encounter with the living God in this Sunday’s Old Testament reading. A bush spontaneously igniting in the intense desert heat was not that uncommon or noteworthy, but that this bush was not consumed was. Thus, Moses turned aside to see this thing, and when he did, he heard God (very likely the pre-incarnate Christ) speaking to Him, calling his name.

By way of background, Moses had been living in the desert of Midian keeping his father-in-law Jethro’s sheep ever since he had been forced to flee Egypt. By this time, no doubt, he was in a comfortable rut. The excitement of his boyhood days of growing up in Pharaoh’s palace lay behind him, but God had something more in store for him. He was the man God had chosen to liberate His people in Egypt and to lead them into the land He had promised to give their fore-bearers, Abraham Isaac and Jacob. Indeed, God, unbeknownst to Moses, had been preparing him for this task his whole life long. Even those years of exile in the desert were not in vain. There he learned the terrain of the land as well as survival skills. Both were necessary for the task God had for him.

With God’s call, also came a new revelation of His inner nature and being. God revealed Himself not just the highest of beings but rather the ground of being, the great I AM.

From this passage we can learn a number of things about this great I AM. The first is that He sees and cares about His human creatures. He is not a God afar off but one near at hand. “I have surely seen the affliction of my people . . . and have heard their cry,” we hear Him say in verse 7. The same remains true today. God sees and cares about you and me. We are not alone.

We also learn that the God who reveals Himself as the great I AM is a God of covenant faithfulness. Many years earlier He had promised Abraham and His offspring a certain bit of territory, the land of Canaan. Now He is making good on this promise. “I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey” (verse 17).

Finally, we learn that the great I AM works through human beings. When He hears the cry of His people in Egypt, He raises up a man – Moses – to do His bidding.

God still calls and uses men and women, people like you and me, to do His work . . .
. God's work our hands. (VHM)

THE COLLECT FOR TRINITY 16

O LORD, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE – Ephesians 3:13-21 (J.B. Phillips)

The power within us

3¹³ In view of these tremendous issues, I beg you not to lose heart because I am now suffering for my part in bringing you the Gospel. Indeed, you should be honoured.

I pray that you may know God's power in practice

14-19 When I think of the greatness of this great plan I fall on my knees before God the Father (from whom all fatherhood, earthly or heavenly, derives its name), and I pray that out of the glorious richness of his resources he will enable you to know the strength of the spirit's inner re-enforcement—that Christ may actually live in your hearts by your faith. And I pray that you, firmly fixed in love yourselves, may be able to grasp (with all Christians) how wide and deep and long and high is the love of Christ—and to know for yourselves that love so far beyond our comprehension. May you be filled though all your being with God himself!

20-21 Now to him who by his power within us is able to do far more than we ever dare to ask or imagine—to him be glory in the Church through Jesus Christ for ever and ever, amen!

NOTE: The Epistle to the Ephesians is in two parts: chapters 1-3 are an explanation of certain central Christian doctrines; chapters 4-6 apply these to life. Part one reaches a climax in 3:6: "the Gentiles are fellow heirs [with believing Jews] . . . and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus." The writer now closes the first half of his Epistle with one of our earliest Christian prayers. He prays that God will strengthen and enlighten the Gentiles that they may fulfil their new vocation. (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL (H.C.) – St. Luke 7:11-17 (J.B. Phillips)

Jesus brings a dead youth back to life

11-13 Not long afterwards, Jesus went into a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a large crowd. As they approached the city gate, it happened that some people were carrying out a dead man, the only son of his widowed mother. The usual

crowd of fellow-townsmen was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry."

¹⁴ Then he walked up and put his hand on the bier while the bearers stood still. Then he said, "Young man, wake up!"

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus handed him to his mother. Everybody present was awe-struck and they praised God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us and God has turned his face towards his people."

¹⁷ And this report of him spread through the whole of Judea and the surrounding countryside.

NOTE: In the life and ministry of Jesus Christ we see God at work in the world. In this incident especially we see both our Lord's life-giving power and His loving concern for people. The O.T. tells us repeatedly of God's faithful concern for His people. (See, for example, Micah 6:3-5 and Jeremiah 31:3). The rock on which we stand is our wholehearted trust in the completely faithful God. (William Sydnor).

LECTIONARY READING

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Exodus 3:1-15 (RSV)

Moses at the burning bush

3 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Mid'ian; and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and lo, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt." ⁴ When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here am I." ⁵ Then he said, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ And he said, "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 seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of 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 place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Per'izzites, the Hivites, and the Jeb'usites. ⁹ And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring forth my people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and

bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?”¹² He said, “But I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain.”

The divine name revealed

¹³ Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers 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.”^[a] And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I am has sent me to you.’”¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘The Lord,^[b] the God of your fathers, 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 thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.”¹⁶ Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, “I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt; ¹⁷ and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt, to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Per’izzites, the Hivites, and the Jeb’usites, a land flowing with milk and honey.”’¹⁸ And they will hearken to your voice; and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, we pray you, let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.’¹⁹ I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand.^[c] ²⁰ So I will stretch out my hand and smite Egypt with all the wonders which I will do in it; after that he will let you go.”²¹ And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty, ²² but each woman shall ask of her neighbor, and of her who sojourns in her house, jewelry of silver and of gold, and clothing, and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters; thus you shall despoil the Egyptians.”

NOTE: The call of Moses shows how very human that great leader was. We see how difficult it was for him to put his trust in God. (William Sydnor)

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

The Preacher – The Rev. Ronald O. Wikander

Sunday Worship Options

In-church.

Drive-in. Those choosing this option are asked to remain in their automobile and listen to the service via their car radio (FM 98.1). Holy Communion will be provided.

Online. Services are livestreamed on Facebook and available for viewing following the service on You Tube.

To access both put “Parish Church of St. Luke, Blue Ridge, Ga.” In the search bar.

* * * * *



3 p.m. This Sunday, Oct. 2
St. Luke's Pavilion



“AN AFTERNOON OF CLASSICS”
Featuring Jeff Bauman with the YHC Ensemble

Sunday, October 9, 2022
3 0’Clock in the Afternoon
St. Luke’s Church

* * * * *



Tip of the Canterbury Cap to Jean Allen for
doing many things well behind the scene.



The Anglican Relief
and Development Fund

OUR MISSION

St. Luke's mission is to grow spiritually in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and to share our faith, our hands and hearts for the sake of the Gospel, our community and the world.

Financial Pledge for the Year of our Lord 2022

As stewards of God's gifts and in gratitude for all blessings, I pledge the following amount to the work of Christ through St. Luke's Church for 2022.

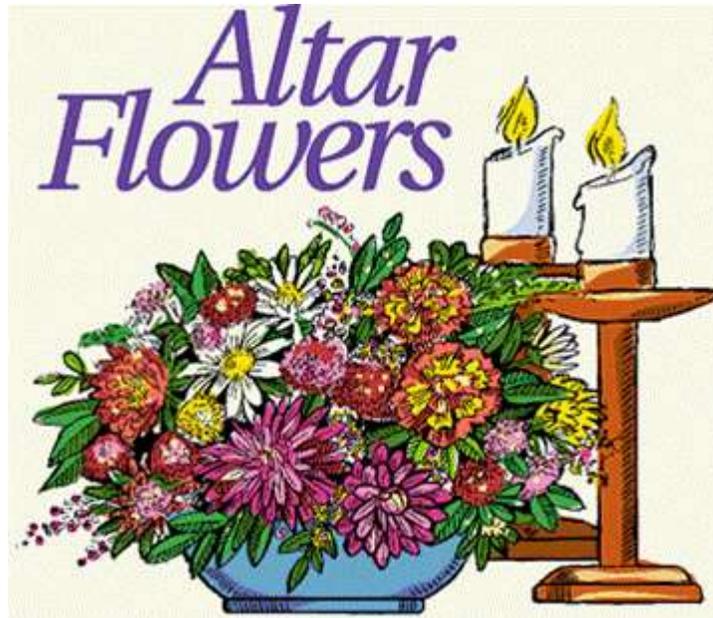
Name

Address

—
Amount

_____ Weekly _____ Monthly _____ Yearly

(Please tick the appropriate blank)



SIGN-UP FOR FLOWERS

A sign-up sheet for Altar flowers is available in Thomason Hall for 2022.

Please sign up for days you wish to commemorate.

Flowers are needed throughout the end of the year. Please email or call Kathryn Noblett at the church office to sign up.

Financial Pledge for the Year of our Lord 2022

As stewards of God's gifts and in gratitude for all blessings, I pledge the following amount to the work of Christ through St. Luke's Church for 2022.

Name

Address

—
Amount

_____ Weekly _____ Monthly _____ Yearly

(Please tick the appropriate blank)



St. Luke's Church, "The Parish Church of the Mountains," 7 Ewing St., (POB 1821), Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513; (706) 632-8245;
www.stlukesblueridge.org; stlukes@tds.net.