

Lent 3 Year C - March 20, 2022

Ex 3:1-15

1 Cor 10:1-13

Psalms 63:1-8

1 Cor 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

We have all built a fire at some time. It is really quite simple. You need something to burn and something to make it burn. Gas stove, fireplace, bonfire (good for telling for ghost stories) campfire (good for roasting marshmallows). How do you keep it burning? Throw on another log, stir up the ashes or blow on it to re-ignite it. Even if it goes out completely it can be started again from scratch. We have fires within us that we don't see but which keep alive our desire to know and love God. When it feels that our own fires are not burning brightly or have gone out, don't despair. With God's help they can always be brought back to life.

There is no doubt that we need help to keep our desires alive – the fires inside ignite our call to justice, love, charity, compassion, honesty, humility. Those flames are not ignited and kept lit to keep us warm inside. They are there so we can share them. To put flesh and bone on them and take them into the world to help others.

In Exodus, Moses encounters the burning bush which is not consumed. That fire will not go out until God decides it is time. God controls the flame. The burning bush introduced Moses to God's extraordinary power. And with that introduction comes a request. It is spelled out clearly. I have heard the cry of my people and I know their sufferings. My people the Israelites are in trouble. They are slaves in Egypt and they need to be rescued. I have come down to bring them out of Egypt and lead them to a land of milk and honey. And then he tells Moses -I am sending you to Pharaoh and depending on you to accomplish this.

Moses responds as we would. With reasons why he is a bad choice and it is beyond his power to accomplish this request. It sounds so familiar because it is what we say when asked to do a task we believe is beyond our capabilities. It also sounds like Mary's response to Gabriel when he explains how she will bear Jesus.

We respond to divine requests with human minds and thoughts. We believe we know our limitations of what we can do. But those limits do not take into account divine intervention and God's help. With those there is no limit. With God all things are possible.

The God who says to Moses my name is "I am" is the same God who was and is and who will be. The God who never leaves us alone, who keeps our fires burning, who leads us into tasks we see as impossible.

All we can do, is to put down the doubts and objections and turn it over to God. To have faith in the seemingly impossible.