

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**ST. PETERS ANGLICAN CHURCH BUNDOORA****Sunday 30th August 2026****Fr. Stephen Monsieigneur****Readings:**¹ Exodus 3:1-15 / Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26 / Romans 12:9-21 / Matthew 16:21-28**Series Title:** Called to Discipleship, Who Me? How?**Today's Theme:** *"Taking up the Cross"***Exodus 3:1-15***Moses at the Burning Bush*

3 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 Mount 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." 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.

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, 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 spacious land, to 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. ¹⁰ Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" 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 serve God on this mountain."

The Divine Name Revealed

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?" 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.

¹ All scriptural quotations are lifted from New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. (NRSVUE)
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Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26

God's Faithfulness to Israel

- ¹ O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- ² Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.
- ³ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
- ⁴ Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
- ⁵ Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he has uttered,
- ⁶ O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.
- ²³ Then Israel came to Egypt;
Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.
- ²⁴ And the Lord made his people very fruitful
and made them stronger than their foes,
- ²⁵ whose hearts he then turned to hate his people,
to deal craftily with his servants.
- ²⁶ He sent his servant Moses
and Aaron, whom he had chosen.

Romans 12:9-21

Marks of the True Christian

- ⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.
- ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16:21-28

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

- ²¹ 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. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get

behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance^[h] to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

The Cross and Self-Denial

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ 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?

²⁷ "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. ²⁸ 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."

SERMON

As we, the community of St Peter's Bundoora, reflect on giving and our future mission, today's readings challenge us to consider not simply what we give, but why and how we give.

In Exodus, Moses encounters God in the burning bush². Called from ordinary life into God's service, Moses initially offers hesitation and uncertainty. Yet God's response is not a promise of comfort, but of presence: "I will be with you"³. Discipleship begins with God's call and our response. Moses is asked to give his time, his abilities, his courage, and ultimately his life to God's purposes.

"O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples"⁴ echoes the psalmist

The people of God are called to remember God's faithfulness and to respond through lives of worship, witness, and service. Giving is one way we make known the deeds of God. It is an act of thanksgiving for all that God has first given to us.

Paul develops this further in Romans. Christian discipleship is practical and visible:

"Let love be genuine"⁵.

He speaks of generosity, hospitality, perseverance, and serving others ahead of ourselves. Christian life is not measured only by beliefs but by sacrificial love expressed through actions. Our giving of money, time, labour, prayer, and skills becomes a tangible expression of genuine love.

Then we come to Jesus' challenging words. After foretelling his death and resurrection, Jesus tells his disciples:

² Exodus 3:1-15

³ Exodus 3:12

⁴ Psalm 105:1

⁵ Romans 12:9

"If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me"⁶ .

Here is the foundation of Christian stewardship. Jesus does not invite us to give only what is easy or convenient. He calls us to self-giving discipleship. The question is not how little we can give while remaining faithful, but how fully we are willing to entrust ourselves to God's mission.

As each of us considers our giving moving forward, these readings invite serious reflection. How are we to give? We give prayerfully, generously, and with gratitude for God's faithfulness. How much are we to give? Scripture does not prescribe a single amount, but it does call each disciple to sacrificial generosity and faithful stewardship.

To what purpose do we give? We give so that the worship of God may continue, the gospel be proclaimed, people be cared for, and future generations encounter Christ through the ministry of this parish.

Most importantly, what do we sacrifice to give to Christ's mission? For some, it may be greater financial support. For others, more time in ministry, practical service, pastoral care, or prayer, and for some there may be a call to change the way we give. The call of Moses, the thanksgiving of the psalmist, the love described by Paul, and the cross-shaped discipleship proclaimed by Jesus all point in the same direction: faithful giving arises from faithful following.

Today, each of us is invited to ask: Can I give more? Can I serve more? Can I trust God more deeply?

Let us pray, Dear God, who called Moses, delivered Israel, raised Christ from the dead, and sustains the Church today, as you continue to call us, may we answer that call with sincere, grateful and generous hearts.

Amen.

⁶ Matthew 16:24