

Sunday, October 11, 2020

Greeting: God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

Question of the Day:

What was the golden calf made from? a) coins b) necklaces c) bracelets d) earrings

Hymn “Humble and Kind”

Call to Worship

Come, seeking to meet the God of all worlds.

We have come to praise God and give thanks.

We believe God’s steadfast love endures forever.

We come together that our faith might be strengthened.

We seek the strength to live by all we profess.

God’s awesome deeds saved our ancestors.

Surely God’s steadfast love continues with us.

God continues to deliver us in times of distress.

God’s steadfast love endures forever.

We rejoice that God is near and welcomes us.

Prayer of Invocation

Holy Spirit of God, shine your light upon this Word and into our hearts that we may be enlightened with fresh understanding. Amen.

Exodus 32:1-20 *The Message*

When the people realized that Moses was taking forever in coming down off the mountain, they rallied around Aaron and said, “Do something. Make gods for us who will lead us. That Moses, the man who got us out of Egypt – who knows what’s happened to him?”

So Aaron told them, “Take off the gold rings from the ears of your wives and sons and daughters and bring them to me.” They all did it; they removed the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from their hands and cast it in the form of a calf, shaping it with an engraving tool.

The people responded with enthusiasm: “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up from Egypt!”

Aaron, taking in the situation, built an altar before the calf.

Aaron then announced, “Tomorrow is a feast day to GOD!”

Early the next morning, the people got up and offered Whole-Burnt-Offerings and brought Peace-Offerings. The people sat down to eat and drink and then began to party. It turned into a wild party!

GOD spoke to Moses, “Go! Get down there! Your people whom you brought up from the land of Egypt have fallen to pieces. In no time at all they’ve turned away from the way I commanded them: They made a molten calf and worshiped it. They’ve sacrificed to it and said, “These are the gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt!”

GOD said to Moses, “I look at this people – oh! what a stubborn, hard-headed people! Let me alone now, give my anger free reign to burst into flames and incinerate them. But I’ll make a great nation out of you.”

Moses tried to calm his GOD down. He said, “Why, GOD, would you lose your temper with your people? Why, you brought them out of Egypt in a tremendous demonstration of power and strength. Why let the Egyptians say, ‘He had it in for them – he brought them out so he could kill them in the mountains, wipe them right off the face of the Earth.’ Stop your anger. Think twice about bringing evil against your people! Think of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants

to whom you gave your word, telling them ‘I will give you many children, as many as the stars in the sky, and I’ll give this land to your children as their land forever.’”

And GOD did think twice. He decided not to do the evil he had threatened against his people.

Moses turned around and came down from the mountain, carrying the two tablets of The Testimony. The tablets were written on both sides, front and back. God made the tablets and God wrote the tablets – engraved them.

When Joshua heard the sound of the people shouting noisily, he said to Moses, “That’s the sound of war in the camp!”

But Moses said, “Those aren’t songs of victory, and those aren’t songs of defeat, I hear songs of people throwing a party.”

And that’s what it was. When Moses came near to the camp and saw the calf and the people dancing, his anger flared. He threw down the tablets and smashed them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. He took the calf that they had made, melted it down with fire, pulverized it to powder, then scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 NRSV

Praise the LORD! O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD, or declare all his praise?

Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.

Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to your people; help me when you deliver them;
that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
that I may glory in your heritage.

Both we and our ancestors have sinned; we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly. . . .

They made a calf at Horeb and worshipped a cast image.

They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass.

They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great thing in Egypt,

wondrous works in the land of Ham, and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

Therefore he said he would destroy them – had not Moses, his chosen one,

stood in the breach before him, to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

Philippians 4:4-9 NRSV

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Response: *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Intercessory Prayer

Mothering God, you never abandon your children; your steadfast love endures forever, your faithfulness throughout the generations. We pray for those in our world whose trust

has been broken through the exploitation by people in power or abuse by those in intimate circles. *(Time of silent prayer.)*

We pray for those whose trust has been broken through abandonment by those who promised to stay or manipulation by those who refuse to let go. *(Time of silent prayer.)*

We pray for those in our world whose trust has been broken through cold comfort in times of affliction or callous rebukes of those on the margins. *(Time of silent prayer.)*

We pray for those in our world whose trust has been broken through the trauma of war or the chaos of assault. *(Time of silent prayer.)*

Empower us, your body, to enfold and protect those broken in body, mind, or spirit, through your all-embracing grace. *(Time of silent prayer.)*

Let us join with Jesus in praying:

The 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Answer to the Question of the Day

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Time of Offering *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

Offering Prayer

Creator God, you are our provider. We offer all that we have and all that we are to you. Bless these gifts, and empower us, your church, to be a refuge for all who are in distress, to provide shelter from the storm. Amen.

Message "Easily Distracted?!" Rev. Joyce Rich

Commission and Blessing

Beloved, may the Spirit guide us to that which is true, **that we may be set free;**

that which is honorable, **that we may rise above ourselves;**

that which is just, **that we may stand in the breach for another;**

that which is pure, **that we may live with integrity;**

that which is pleasing, **that we may look beyond ourselves;**

that which is commendable, **that we may seek to do God's will;**

that which is excellent and worthy of praise; **that we may praise the name of the Lord forever.**

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard our heart and minds in Christ

Jesus, now and forevermore. Amen. **And Amen.**

Hymn "Compass"

Announcements; Read For Next Week: Exodus 23:12-23; Psalm 99

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