

GROUP LEARNING & REMINDERS: (You will have to *FILL IN THE BLANKS* during the sermon)

1. Read Exodus 32:1-33:3. What strikes you first in this part of the narrative? What questions immediately come to mind as you read this text?
2. Pastor John noted 4 crucial elements in today's Exodus Journey. How do you see each in relationship to your own life of faith or in the lives of those you know? What would you need to do to overcome the obstacles & embrace the strengths?

i. We too often _____ too soon.

“God allows what he hates in order to accomplish what he loves.”

ii. We _____ the _____ wrong.

iii. Am I _____ for or _____ against

or even worse _____ unfaith.

iv. There IS a moment of _____ in our
_____ or _____

God fights FOR his people; but he fights AGAINST those who reject him.

To receive the promise of God, you need to live with the God of the promise.

Living Water Fellowship

11th Sunday after Pentecost – 13th August 2023

COME TO JESUS

SONG: VIDEO – SING TO JESUS (Robbie Seay Band)-CCL Licence 384660

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Exodus 32:1-14

¹When the people saw how long it was taking Moses to come back down the mountain, they gathered around Aaron. “Come on,” they said, “make us some gods who can lead us. We don’t know what happened to this fellow Moses, who brought us here from the land of Egypt.” ²Aaron said, “Take the gold rings from the ears of your wives & sons & daughters, & bring them to me.” ³All the people took the gold rings from their ears & brought them to Aaron. ⁴Then Aaron took the gold, melted it down, & moulded it into the shape of a calf. When the people saw it, they exclaimed, “O Israel, these are the gods who brought you out of the land of Egypt!” ⁵Aaron saw how excited the people were, so he built an altar in front of the calf. Then he announced, “Tomorrow will be a festival to the Lord!” ⁶The people got up early the next morning to sacrifice burnt offerings & peace offerings. After this, they celebrated with feasting & drinking, & they indulged in pagan revelry.

⁷The Lord told Moses, “Quick! Go down the mountain! Your people whom you brought from the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. ⁸How quickly they have turned away from the way I commanded them to live! They have melted down gold & made a calf, & they have bowed down & sacrificed to it. They are saying, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.’” ⁹The Lord said, “I have seen how stubborn & rebellious these people are. ¹⁰Now leave me alone so my fierce anger can blaze against them, & I will destroy them. Then I will make you, Moses, into a great nation.”

¹¹But Moses tried to pacify the Lord his God. “O Lord!” he said. “Why are you so angry with your own people whom you brought from the land of Egypt with such great power & such a strong hand? ¹²Why let the Egyptians say, ‘Their God rescued them with the evil intention of slaughtering them in the mountains & wiping them from the face of the earth’? Turn away from your fierce anger. Change your mind about this terrible disaster you have threatened against your people! ¹³Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, Israel. You bound yourself with an oath to them, saying, ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven. I will give them all of this land that I have promised to your descendants, & they will possess it forever.’” ¹⁴So the Lord changed his mind about the terrible disaster he had threatened to bring on his people.

SONG: VIDEO – ANCIENT OF DAYS (CityAlight)- CCL Licence 384660

CHILDREN'S TIME:

BIBLE READING: Exodus 32:15 – 33:3

¹⁵ Then Moses turned & went down the mountain. He held in his hands the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant. They were inscribed on both sides, front & back. ¹⁶ These tablets were God's work; the words on them were written by God himself.

¹⁷ When Joshua heard the boisterous noise of the people shouting below them, he exclaimed to Moses, "It sounds like war in the camp!" ¹⁸ But Moses replied, "No, it's not a shout of victory nor the wailing of defeat. I hear the sound of a celebration."

¹⁹ When they came near the camp, Moses saw the calf & the dancing, & he burned with anger. He threw the stone tablets to the ground, smashing them at the foot of the mountain. ²⁰ He took the calf they had made & burned it. Then he ground it into powder, threw it into the water, & forced the people to drink it. ²¹ Finally, he turned to Aaron & demanded, "What did these people do to you to make you bring such terrible sin upon them?" ²² "Don't get so upset, my lord," Aaron replied. "You yourself know how evil these people are. ²³ They said to me, 'Make us gods who will lead us. We don't know what happened to this fellow Moses, who brought us here from the land of Egypt.' ²⁴ So I told them, 'Whoever has gold jewellery, take it off.' When they brought it to me, I simply threw it into the fire & out came this calf!"

²⁵ Moses saw that Aaron had let the people get completely out of control, much to the amusement of their enemies. ²⁶ So he stood at the entrance to the camp & shouted, "All of you who are on the Lord's side, come here & join me." All the Levites gathered around him. ²⁷ Moses told them, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Each of you, take your swords & go back & forth from one end of the camp to the other. Kill everyone—even your brothers, friends, & neighbours." ²⁸ The Levites obeyed Moses' command, & about 3,000 people died that day. ²⁹ Then Moses told the Levites, "Today you have ordained yourselves for the service of the Lord, for you obeyed him even though it meant killing your own sons & brothers. Today you have earned a blessing."

³⁰ The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a terrible sin, but I will go back up to the Lord on the mountain. Perhaps I will be able to obtain forgiveness for your sin." ³¹ So Moses returned to the Lord & said, "Oh, what a terrible sin these people have committed. They have made gods of gold for themselves. ³² But now, if you will only forgive their sin—but if not, erase my name from the record you have written!"

³³ But the Lord replied to Moses, "No, I will erase the name of everyone who has sinned against me. ³⁴ Now go, lead the people to the place I told you about. Look! My angel will lead the way before you. When I come to call the people to account, I will certainly hold them responsible for their sins." ³⁵ Then the Lord sent a great plague upon the people because they had worshiped the calf Aaron had made.

^{33:1} The Lord said to Moses, "Get going, you & the people you brought up from the land of Egypt. Go up to the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob. I told them, 'I will give this land to your descendants.' ² I will send an angel before you to drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, & Jebusites. ³ Go up to this land that flows with milk & honey. But I will not travel among you, for you are a stubborn & rebellious people. If I did, I would surely destroy you along the way."

FAITH CHAT:

1. Have you ever experienced a time where you have doubted God's presence or goodness in your life? What did you do?
2. What are some things apart from God that you, or those you know, turn to for comfort & security in life?

THE MESSAGE: *A JOURNEY OF PROMISE: REPLACING THE PROMISE*

OFFERING SONG: VIDEO – *REST MY SOUL* (Tim Timmons) CCLI 384660

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship during Communion:

VIDEO – *CHRIST IS MINE FOREVERMORE* (CityAlight)- CCL Licence 384660

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God,
God will bring his promise to fullness in you
as you live in the fullness of Christ. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: VIDEO – *LIVING HOPE* (Phil Wickham) CCLI 384660

SHOW HIS LOVE