

On Holy Ground

Holy Ground All Around

Take off your shoes. Keep off the grass. Mind your step.

Religious Temples. With respect - Aboriginal sacred sites. The Mount and the Go-Cart Track (All with examples).

Our own scriptures, as in the readings; In different sections of the scriptures.

By the Bush: Moses - a Refugee and Fugitive- (With poetic licence)

The burning bush –after 40 years - an unexplainable incident. Approached with awe and wonder. *Sensed, heard a voice. Kicked off his sandals.*

The conversation. *You are on holy ground – you are in the presence of God . I've got a job for you to do back in Egypt. I'm a fugitive from there. What have I been doing with you over the last 80 years? I can't speak! Your brother Aaron can. Who will I tell them sent me? Will either group listen to me?*

The most earth shattering statement – *God named himself: I AM. Tell them I AM sent you.* The magnitude of the unfathomable statement. Later added the God of(Other deities also have lesser names)

I AM is going to be with you. It is all in my hand – Pharoah; the waters of the sea; the cloud and the pillar of fire. Put your sandals on and off you go. The rest is history.

Wonderful, but challenging, things happen when we realise we are on holy ground! Beware!

At the Well: In Foreign Territory

Possible spots in Christ's ministry: Sermon on the Mount; John 3:16; Wandering Jerusalem.

Another hot spot, and a weary Christ resting and looking for a refreshing drink.

The engaging Christ met the woman on everyday terms.

The conversation soon turned to the taboo subjects of politics and religion – including racist and sexist terms.

Christ made the dramatic statement about true worship – neither about place, religion or, nationality.

Worship, the worship of God, the interplay of God and the individual, is about the real and all consuming understanding and practice of our relationship with God. Each individual must face it alone.

No longer is it possible to hide under the cover of any external factor.

Grasping this truth, the social outcast became a missionary.

Beware, Be aware, You are on Holy Ground.

If we believe that God is everywhere, and loves us individually, then we are always on holy ground.

It makes us see every moment and every situation through a different prism. (Examples) Again with respect, see the spirituality of the Indigenous peoples.

Ponder: Is that how I live? Is every place holy ground for me?

Service Notes –30.08.20

Welcome

Welcome to worship now, no matter what the day, time or place. All God asks is that we worship Him in spirit and in truth. Come, share the blessing of worship, knowing you are not alone.

My name is John Hoye, I am a lay service leader in the Uniting Church here.

Today our Service will centre on the theme of "On Holy Ground". Of course we will wander with Moses by the burning bush and elsewhere. As a symbol of our being on holy ground with God, through Christ, we light our Christ Candle.

Lighting of the Christ candle –

As we gather, may we honour too this ground with the Wiradjuri nation on whose land we meet.

Acknowledgement of country

Appreciating being on Gold's holy ground, let us hear of his call to us to join in worship.

Call to Worship

For our first hymn we sing from Hymn 152 Together in Song, "Joyful, joyful

Hymn : "Joyful. Joyful"

Let us pray

Opening Prayer

Prayer of confession

As surely as we confess, be assured that God has promised there is forgiveness to follow

Assurance of forgiveness

On that note we can confidently sing from Hymn 693 "Come as you are"

Hymn – ... "Come as you are"

Our scripture readings today touch on two aspects of holy ground.

Scripture Readings --Genesis 3:1-15 and John 4 – selected verses

Message

Exodus

What better to sing now than "Here in this place" Hymn number 474

Hymn – 474 "Here in this place"

Prayers of the people and Lord's Prayer

Our parting hymn is also a prayer. "Now thank we all our God" Hymn 106

Hymn – "Now thank we all our God"

Go and tread reverently on holy ground, for it is everywhere. Go, knowing that the God who called you to it goes with you by both day and by night. Go with his blessing. Amen.

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