



## ***Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast November 14, 2021 “A Burning Bush”***

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*Moses led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 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. Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” 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.” [Exodus 3:1-4]*

### **A Humble Bush**

One of the most famous stories in the Bible is the one describing Moses’ encounter with God in a burning bush. In previous weekly Blasts we have seen how trees occupy a sacred place in the history of God’s relationship with humankind. After reading the passage from Exodus above, we might wonder, “Why didn’t God speak to Moses from a tall tree or one of the ancient Cedars from Lebanon? Why did God choose a lowly bush in which to make an appearance?”



When I read this story of a simple bush clinging to life in the wild, the image of sagebrush comes to mind. Early this year when Maggie and I travelled West and spent hours looking at ancient ruins left by the First Nations, I happened to notice the surrounding bushes: sagebrush. It was easy to overlook these dusty green plants at first. But when I took time to notice them and reached out to rub their leaves, I was rewarded with a fragrant scent left on my hand! What a treat it was to look across a whole field of these humble looking plants, which serve as food and shelter for birds, and traditionally were used for medicinal purposes.

### **Staying Alert to Small Miracles**

We take a risk by not pausing to appreciate the small miracles of creation – including the trees AND common bushes. By doing so we limit our ability to appreciate God’s presence in our everyday lives. (By the way, did you notice that God did not speak to Moses until Moses noticed the burning bush?) Alert to his surroundings, Moses recognized something special was happening. If we want to hear from God, we need to pay attention to miracles God places in right front of us – even if it means ignoring our cell phones occasionally! Elizabeth Barrett Browning captured this thought in poetic lines:

*Earth’s crammed with heaven,  
And every common bush afire with God:  
But only he who sees, takes off his shoes.  
[from Aurora Leigh]*

Lord, make us alert to miracles around us and willing to take off our shoes and enter these holy places. May it be so. Amen.

**Please keep in your prayers this week...**the soul of Mary Ann; Joseph; Peter.