

Bringing It Home For Sunday March 23



Exodus 3:1-6 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 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." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." 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.

In our first Bible reading today, God told Moses to take off his sandals, because he was standing on holy ground.

What do you think "holy ground" means?

To me, holy ground might be a church, or maybe a cemetery where someone I love is buried. But I don't take my shoes off in cemeteries, and I don't usually take my shoes off in church. Do you?

If you were Muslim and went into a mosque to pray, you would take your shoes off and wash your hands and arms and feet and face.

If you were a Sikh and going to a gurdwara to pray, you would take off your shoes and wash.

I wonder why we Christians don't usually take our shoes off in church. Maybe you have an idea to share, if you want.

Let's pray. Dear God, thank you for people like Moses who served you and obeyed your commands. Thank you for loving me, and welcoming me to church, no matter what I'm wearing. Amen.

(Artwork: Landscape with Moses and the Burning Bush Painting by Domenichino (Domenico Zampieri) (Italian, Bologna 1581–1641 Naples), dated 1610–16, from the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY)