

Bringing it Home

For Sunday, February 15, 2026

By Allison de Kanel



Two of our Bible stories today made me think of fireworks.

Do you enjoy watching fireworks? I do. They go so high in the sky, and the colors and patterns they make are beautiful!

Do you enjoy hearing fireworks? They can be very loud and startling. A lot of people hate fireworks because of the noise.

Fireworks are noisy because they are very powerful. They can be dangerous to people who aren't trained to use them.

In our first Bible story, God told Moses to go up the holy mountain to meet God. This was scary! God had already told the people to stay away from the mountain. It was dangerous. Not because God was mean, but because he is so holy and powerful. Being near God is like being in the center of a fireworks blast.

When Moses came down the mountain, his face was glowing from being near God. And seeing his face was like the reflection of a whole fireworks show, all at once. It was too much for the people to bear, so Moses had to cover his face so the people could approach him.

In our second Bible story, Jesus and three of his friends went up a mountain. Not the same one as Moses, but a mountain anyway.

And Jesus shone like the Sun, and God spoke, and Moses was there, and the prophet Elijah was there. It was too much for his friends to bear. They were terrified.

When it was all over, Jesus touched them and said, "Do not be afraid."

Imagine you are at a fireworks display, and the lights and the noise are too much for you. And your folks hug you and say, "Don't be afraid."

These two stories remind me of fireworks. And they remind me that God is holy, and powerful. And that God loves us and doesn't want us to be afraid.

Let's pray. Dear Jesus, thank you for your kindness to your friends. I want to be close to you forever. Help me to worship you without fear. Amen.

Today's Bible Readings:

From the Old Testament:

Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

From the Gospel:

Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Artwork: The Transfiguration, 1603, Stained glass painted by Franz Fallenter (Freiburg im Breisgau ca. 1550–ca. 1616 Lucerne). From the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY.