

# Blazing, yet not consumed

Week 1 SOC



"Earth's crammed with heaven,  
And every common bush afire with God."  
Aurora Leigh," Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement.  
Get up in the morning and look at the world in a way  
that takes nothing for granted.  
Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible;  
never treat life casually.  
To be spiritual is to be amazed.  
Abraham Joshua Heschel

... nature is a constant source of wonder and awe.  
It is also a continuing revelation of the divine  
Laudato Si 85

## ***Scripture Reading: Exodus 3:1-2***

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.

The word of the Lord

(Place symbol of lighted candle and bare branches)

### ***Laudato Si Reflection***

The Spirit of God has filled the universe with possibilities and therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge: "Nature is nothing other than a certain kind of art, namely God's art, impressed upon things, whereby those things are moved to a determinate end." *Laudato Si* 80

### ***Prayer Reflection (2 Readers)***

How fares the flame of love in each one of us?

(Each time the word 'love' is spoken, a different person hangs a flame on a branch of the shrub!)



Love of God...

Love of the Family...

Love of one another in community...

Love of the Church...

Love of those in our care...

Love of the stranger...

Love of those suffering...

Love of those who are different

Love of the enemies  
Love of the earth, trees, water, animals,  
Love of our common home  
Love of all creation

How fares the flame of love in each one of us?

Quiet Reflection

***Prayer for our scorched earth:***

God of all creation, all the elements belong to you - earth, air, fire and water. You appeared to Moses in the burning bush, which blazed but was not consumed. You led and guarded your people, Israel, by night with a pillar of flame. You empowered and missioned the early church with tongues of fire at Pentecost.

But now, God of wind and flame, bushfires and forest fires engulf large areas of land, communities, and homes.

Father, be with all who have lost their homes, their animals, their crops, their livelihood.

Guard those who must flee because of these spreading fires. Protect those who battle the flames, and help us to bring life out of ash and dust.

We pray too for killed or injured wildlife; both native and domestic, and for trees and plant life that have been destroyed.

Let us also pray for the victims of gunfire and the victims of bomb attacks, destroying homes and means of survival.

Give your people the will and motivation, the resources and strength, we pray, to care, to sow, to replant, to reconcile and to rebuild. Amen

***Concluding Prayer:***

Spirit of Transforming Fire,

May we have the courage to sit in the fire of diversity.

May we have the endurance to stay centred in the heat of trouble.

May we have the fortitude to walk in the fire of conflict.

May we know how to respond to the seething fire of anger, hatred, and revenge.

May we be soothed by the fire of love and devotion, compassion and mercy.

And may we emerge from whatever fire has touched us - purified, reformed, reconciled, transformed.

Amen

Many things can be conduits  
of divine grace  
and revelation.



The Burning Bush  
Ex 3:1-12

Listen to the  
Voice of creation  
SEASON OF CREATION 2022