



Living Lent | March 23

Covenant

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation." But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the Lord changed his mind about

Exodus 32: 7-14 (NRSV)

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

It would be so easy to read this passage from Exodus and become preoccupied with the thought of Moses twisting God's arm and causing Him to have a change of heart. "And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people." (vs.14) Yet I don't believe that should be the focus of our attention at all. Rather, what we're invited to understand is that Moses is appealing to the LORD because he is a covenant-keeping God.

In our day and age, we have come to regard covenant as an agreement which, no matter how legally binding in its intent, we can free ourselves from, given sufficient determination and a competent attorney. But that is not how covenant worked in the ancient world. It was so serious that it often involved the shedding of blood, as in the case of the Abrahamic covenant and circumcision.

And throughout the Bible we only ever see humans breaking covenant with God; never vice versa.

In this Lenten season it is good to be reminded that the LORD is always faithful and committed to upholding His side of the covenant that He initiated. No matter how dark and foreboding the circumstance, no matter how undeserving we might feel, we are invited to remember the basis of Moses' appeal to God, and the words of Jesus to his followers, "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ

In April of 1858, Saint Mark's Episcopal Church was born in Brunswick, Georgia and by 1860 the first Episcopal Bishop of Georgia, appointed a vicar and the mission of Saint Mark's began. Throughout its history, Saint Mark's has served Glynn County and Morningstar Children's Home as Christ's hands and feet. The people of the Golden Isles and especially the parish family of Saint Mark's has remained faithful stewards of the commission granted. The Reverend Gareth Allcott (Anglican) is the Assistant to the Rector for Christian and Leadership Formation, and often is found at Morningstar Children's Home directly ministering to the Children in a uniquely gifted way.

*It takes a lot of everything to **create home and healing** for the foster children, our neighbors, served at Morningstar Children's Home.*

We invite you to join others in giving \$1 per day during Lent to help support the needs of the children.

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