

August 13, 2017
Summer Sermon Series
“Mountains of the Bible: The Mountains of Moriah”
(Let Go)

First Reading Genesis 22:1-14

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ He said, ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.’ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled a donkey, and took two workers with him, and his son Isaac. Abraham chopped wood for the burnt offering, and started on the journey to the place God showed them. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. Then Abraham said to the workers, ‘Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there; we will worship and come back to you.’ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac. In his own hands he carried the fire and the knife. Then the two of them walked on alone.

Isaac said to his father Abraham, ‘Father!’ And he said, ‘Here I am, my child.’ He said, ‘The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?’ Abraham said, ‘My child, God will provide the lamb for a burnt offering.’ Then the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of God called out from heaven, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ ‘Do not raise your hand against the boy’ the angel said. ‘Do not do anything to him. I know now how deeply you revere God, since you did not refuse me your son, your only child.’

Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his child. So Abraham called that place ‘God Provides’; and so it is said to this day, ‘On this mountain, YHWH provides.’

Second Reading ~ adapted from Alexandra Billings, actress, teacher, student, singer, and one of the first transgender women to portray a transgender character on TV

Hold on. Grab the chance and shake it to its roots. Stand in the middle.

Wave. Jump. Skip. Let go.

Take the road less traveled and run like Hell. Find Heaven. Surrender completely. Never give up totally. Always say Yes. Don't adhere. Don't conform. Don't whisper. Search constantly. Join the race. Embrace your bigness. Love the silence. Find the Divine within yourself and so in each person you pass -- less them with the light you share and the darkness you don't. Stay home. Go outside. Leap off the largest cliff possible and spread your wings farther than you dreamed and head upwards towards the sun.

This is a Life worth Living. Hold on long enough to let go.