

House of God
Genesis 28:10-19a
July 23, 2023
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Places can mean a lot to us

Meeting God in the in-between times

“How possible is it that we might find **awe** in the middle of nowhere on our way to somewhere we don’t yet know?” Valerie Bridgeman

You can tell a lot about a church based on the hymns they love.

2 new to me hymns that you love:

In The Bulb There Is A Flower by Natalie Sleeth 88

Go With God Isaiah Jones, Jr 138

Hope in God’s promises is strong in you. Resurrection, redemption and God’s constant presence. You believe in second chances

Kindness, commitment to one another, Family

Blessing stolen, brother angry and is plotting to kill Jacob

Jacob flees, and is on way to find a wife from among his first cousins on Rebekah his mom’s side. Rebekah plans to tell Jacob when to return. She never sees him again.

Nervous, determined, on a journey

The anti-hero of the story but both Esau and Jacob were imperfect humans

God comes to us in mysterious ways, at unexpected times. God meets us in the midst of our vulnerability.

More than One can receive the Blessing- angels coming and going- GOd is at work beyond us. Our story is not the only story... What is God up to?

The experts say that you can tell a lot about a congregation by its favorite hymns. I reflected on your favorite hymns. I wonder if my perception of your favorite hymns would match your perception. Let me know after church! Well in my opinion,

One of your favorites is “In the Bulb There Is a Flower” which shows that you value trusting in God and that you understand that we don’t always know what God is up to. Here are the lyrics as a reminder:

“Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.”

You believe in 2nd chances. You believe in grace and in God's power to transform.

The Genesis passage read today surprises us with Jacob, a trickster who had stolen both the birthright and blessing from his brother Esau, fleeing his brother's wrath and thirst for revenge and on his way to find a bride from among his first cousins on his mom's side encountering GOD. Jacob finds a stone for a pillow and falls into a deep sleep. He dreams that there is a ladder with angels ascending and descending from the earth to heaven and back. God is at work in ways beyond his work with Jacob's family.

Then God stands next to Jacob and talks with him, giving him promises about his offspring being many and being blessed, even being a blessing to all families of the earth.

God says, "I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac." Not yet Jacob's God...

God says to Jacob: "Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go." The promise of God's presence is the best promise!

This promise of God's presence with the trickster Jacob seems very gracious. On Jacob's deathbed, he claims God as his God declaring "the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day" (Genesis 48:15). Jacob comes around and relies on the Lord and claims the Lord as his God.

God alone can see all that lies ahead. Jacob celebrated God's presence.

In my opinion your other favorite hymn/song is "Go With God." 138

You believe in blessing one another, and even as people leave you, you trust that God will light their way and declare that almost every Sunday.

You have been a great blessing to me and my family throughout the last year and a half. We have enjoyed our time with you.

Remember that God is at work in you and in the world. Hope in the future.

Remember to continue to bless each other and to count on God's active presence in your life and in the life of the Church.