



Council of Bishops

The United Methodist Church



“Let My People Go!”

Dismantling Racism: Council of Bishops Lenten Devotional Series

Bishop Karen Oliveto, Mountain Sky Episcopal Area

March 10, 2021

Scripture: Numbers 21:4-9

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea,^[a] to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Key points:

- “Let my people go”, is the call that God gives to us as people in power and in captivity.
- Following God means taking a journey that will lead us to uncomfortable places.
- By looking at the very things that cause death we find life.
- God loves the world and we are tasked to love this world and each other into the fullness of that divine love.
- Love is something done not merely said.

Questions for contemplation:

1. How is love expressed in your interactions with others? Is it a love that connects or one that separates?
2. How is love expressed in the tasks that you perform? Is love at the center of all that you do?
3. How does love guide the way you make decisions and the decisions that you make?
4. How does love compel you to listen to the stories and experiences of others especially those who are different than you?

