

Sunday June 13, 2021
The Seed Would Sprout And Grow — How?

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship *(based upon Psalm 92:1-4)*

Leader: Come and give thanks to our God.
Sing praises to the holy name.

People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **With the melody of the lute and the harp
and the song in our hearts,
we declare God's steadfast love in the morning
and faithfulness at night.**

Leader: God's works make us glad.

People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **Your works are great, O God.**

Opening Prayer **Unison** *(Out loud, but muted)*

**O God, maker of all that is beautiful,
Jesus gave us the seeds of your justice and peace.
In this time together, touch us, teach us, inspire us
to sow those seeds through our ministries
so that all may share in Creation's abundance
to make true the promise
that no one will know scarcity
and no one will suffer deprivation in this community and beyond. Amen.**

Hymn #422: Come, O Thankful People, Come
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

Hymn Leader: Liisa Granfors-Hunt

- 1) Come, O thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in as the winter storms begin;
God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.
- 2) All the blessings of the field, all the stores the gardens yield,
all the fruits in full supply ripened 'neath the summer sky,
All that spring with bounteous hand scatters o'er the smiling land,
all that liberal autumn pours from its rich o'erflowing stores.

- 3) These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessing flow;
and for these our songs we raise, grateful vows and solemn praise.
Come, then, thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

Prayer of Confession **Unison** (*Out loud, but muted*)

**Gracious God, you are indeed generous.
You give us the gifts of the spirit which enable us to have so much.
We forget, however, that we have been recipients
of other people's generosity.
Believing that what we have is ours,
we forget that all we have is yours.
Forgive us.
Help us to remember that being made in your image,
we should be as generous as you. Amen.**

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a humble spirit and a contrite heart.
By God's steadfast love for us, we are forgiven of our sins. Thanks be to God.

Passing of the Peace (*unmute for Passing of the Peace*)

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you
People: **And also with you!**

Reading

Jo-Anne Fournier

Ezekiel 17:22-24 (NIV)

17:22 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain.

17:23 On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.

17:24 All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 (NIV)

92:1 It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

92:2 to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,

92:3 to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

92:4 For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

92:12 The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

92:13 They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.

92:14 In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap,

92:15 showing that the LORD is upright; God is my rock...

Special Music

Liisa Granfors-Hunt

Gospel Reading

Mark 4:26-34 (NIV)

4:26 He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,

4:27 and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.

4:28 The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head.

4:29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

4:30 He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?

4:31 It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth;

4:32 yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

4:33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it;

4:34 he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Musical Interlude

Sermon: The Seed Would Sprout And Grow—How?

Music for Meditation

Prayers of the People (unmute yourself to offer a request, giving first names only, please)

Hymn #508 Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire (verses 1 and 5)
(sung muted but together)

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, unuttered or expressed;
The motion of a hidden fire that trembles in the breast.
O Christ, by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way,
The path of prayer you too have trod: Christ, teach us how to pray.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer **Unison** (*Out loud, but muted*)

Offering Invitation

Jesus' teachings give us many seeds to sow in this community and beyond. It is, however, through our offering that we can nurture these seeds so all may know the gospel's promise.

Offering and Dedication **Unison** (*Out loud, but muted*)

You have been exceedingly generous to us, O God.
We return a portion of what we have to you in grateful thanksgiving.
Bless our offerings that they will nurture the seeds
of hope and healing in this community and beyond. Amen.

Benediction **Unison** (*Out loud, but muted*)

May God's love be with us as we sow seeds of justice and peace
along the paths we will travel so all may know the gospel's promise.