

SOUL KEEPING

“The Struggle of the Soul”

Sunday, September 16, 2018

“Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed,

- some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.
- Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.
- Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.
- Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

Matthew 13:3-9 (NIV)

- *CONNECTING YOU WITH CHRIST AND COMMUNITY* -

Greeters:

Sandy & Gary Cross
Allison, Jeff, Miles, Emerson, & Hutchins Brown
Jean Francis
Cathy Sorg

Ushers:

John & Gail Robinson
Ron Mable
John Hershey
John Herr
Sam Smith
Sandy Leaman

The Chancel Flowers are Presented by:

Helen Emmitt, in memory of her husband, Harold
Lewis & Glenda Burross, in honor of their daughter, Meredith's birthday
Kirby Kiick, in loving memory of Judy Kiick
Helen Moe, in honor of her granddaughter, Caroline Camens and her classmates on receiving their bibles

The white rose is to announce the death of Benjamin Witmer

Gathering in God's Name

Chimes & Welcome

Rev. Dr. Roger Rabey

Prelude

"It is Well with my Soul"

arr. Mark Hayes

Call to Worship (from the penitential psalm 51:10-17, The Message)

Leader: Soak me in your laundry [Lord] and I'll come out clean,
Scrub me and I'll have a snow-white life.

**People: Tune me in to foot-tapping songs,
Set these once-broken bones to dancing.**

Leader: Don't look too close for blemishes,
Give me a clean bill of health.

**People: God, make a fresh start in me,
Shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life.**

Leader: Don't throw me out with the trash,
Or fail to breathe holiness in me.

**People: Bring me back from grey exile,
Put a fresh wind in my sails!**

Leader: Give me a job teaching rebels your ways
So the lost can find their way home.

**People: Commute my death sentence, God, my salvation God,
And I'll sing anthems to your life-giving ways.**

**ALL: Unbutton my lips, dear God;
I'll let loose with your praise! Amen.**

* Hymn #145

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!"

Proclaiming God's Word

Prayer of Confession (Silent & Corporate)

**You love us dearly, Heavenly Father,
yet how indifferent we are!**

**We take your love for granted without considering the price you have paid,
or the blessing you give when your love is accepted.**

**Forgive us for requiring such depth of love,
and then not responding with our faith and trust.**

**Fill our hearts, our minds, and our lives, with belief in your Son
as our crucified Savior and resurrected Lord!**

**Enable us to live boldly in your love
and sharing it with others. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison 572

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*During the Gloria Patri, we invite the K-3rd graders to walk back to the **Prayground** where they can listen to the Scripture and the sermon. We invite the 4th/5th graders to walk back and pick up a Sermon activity sheet and take it back to their seats. If a preschooler would like to join us in the **Prayground**, we ask that a parent accompany them.*

* Gloria Patri 579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen

Scripture

Matthew 13:3-9(NIV)

Message

**“The Struggle of the Soul”
2nd in 6-part Series: Soul Keeping**

Hymn of Response #551

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

Responding to God’s Word

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Presentation of Bibles

Laurie Juárez

Presentation of Offering

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

Offertory

“Give Me Jesus”

*Please sign and pass the “**Friendship Pad**” during the Offering and pass it down the pew. At the end of the row, pass it back so that we can greet one another by name after the service.*

* Doxology 592 (inclusive)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Going in God’s Name

* Closing Hymn #387 *“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

* Benediction and Congregational Response

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;

I can feel His mighty power and His grace.

I can hear the brush of angels’ wings; I see glory in each face;

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Postlude

“Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken”

arr. Gordon Young

Second and third grade families, please join us for a reception honoring your children, outside under the big tent immediately following the service. (If bad weather, we will be down by the gym).

MUSIC: HIGHLAND CHANCEL CHOIR, SETH WICKENHEISER, ORGAN SCHOLAR
DR. PAUL THORLAKSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST
A/V: JONATHAN LEFEVER

* PLEASE STAND IF ABLE

SERMON NOTES

A Parable of the Soil (Soul)

The Seed is constant. The Sower is constant.
The Soil is the variable:

The Hardened Soul – *“some seed fell along the path”*

The Shallow Soul – *“some seed fell on rocky places”*

The Cluttered Soul – *“some seed fell among the thorns”*

The Healthy Soul – *“some seed fell on good soil”*

“The most important thing about you
is not the things that you achieve;
it is the person that you become.” -- Dallas Willard

**A description of the stained Chancel window can be found in the front of the hymnal
FM sound devices are available. Please ask an usher for your own personal receiver.**

Cell phones should be silenced during the worship service.

Nursery is available during all worship services

After the service, please recycle this page in the receptacles labeled “Paper Only” located in the Narthex.

MESSAGES: Each week the sermons from the traditional & contemporary services can be found on the Highland website
If you missed a week but would still like to connect with Highland on the message
Visit highlandpc.org under the “Welcome” tab and choose either traditional or contemporary service.