



A SPROUT STORY

Matthew 13:1-9, 16-23

Sunday, July 16, 2023

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. 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."

But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

- *CONNECTING YOU WITH CHRIST AND COMMUNITY* -

Greeters: Wendy & Henry Hershey, Connie & Bob Hoelscher, Sonteary & Saron Keat, Marty & Jack Hynd

Ushers: Grant & Dean Shonour, Jennifer Winter, Linda Keener, Sara Shank

The Chancel Flowers are Presented By:

Joyce McClintock & family, in memory of The Rev. Ross McClintock

Gathering in God's Name

Chimes

Welcome & Ministry Highlights

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Please sign and pass the "Friendship Pad" down the pew.

At the end of the row, pass it back so that we can greet one another by name after the service.

* Call to Worship

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Leader: Praise awaits our God in Zion!

People: All people will come to the God who answers prayer

Leader: Blessed are those who are brought near, to live in God's house

People: We are filled with the good things of God's holy temple.

All: Let us worship God!

* Opening Hymn #282

"God, You Spin the Whirling Planets"

Proclaiming God's Word

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Merciful God, you have proclaimed your Word with amazing generosity, and in countless ways. Your spirit dwells with us, so we hear your Word in scripture and song. We can listen to our brothers and sisters, our close friends and those on the distant margins. And still, we do not always hear. We listen to the voices that are loudest, or those that resemble our own. We value a message that is familiar, over a message that is transformative. God, give us a Spirit of openness and discernment, so that your Word can find fertile soil in our hearts. Transform our hearts and our community, so that we are prepared to do justice and love mercy as your plan for us continues to unfold. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Leader: The Apostle Paul says, "there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Leader: As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to one another. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

* 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.

Children's Dismissal to Sunday School

*At this time, children through 6th grade are invited to attend Sunday School. Teachers are stationed at the main doors of the sanctuary and will walk the children to the children's classrooms in the Narthex.
Parents/Guardians may pick up their children after the service in the classroom.*

Instrumental Solo "Concerto in a minor Op. 3, no. 6, 1st Mvt" Wyatt Singleton

Scripture Readings Matthew 13:1-9, 16-23

Message "A Sprout Story" Will Massey

Minute for Mission - God's Plan Seekers (GPS)

Responding to God's Word

Hymn #322 "Spirit of the Living God"

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us,
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us.
Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us.**

Prayers of the People, 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.**

Invitation to the Offering Rev. Allison Beaulieu
Wooden offering boxes are located in the narthex

Going in God's Name

* Closing Hymn #422 "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

* Charge and Benediction Will Massey

* Congregational Response "Spirit of the Living God"

Postlude

* PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT

**MUSIC: DR. PAUL THORLAKSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
JONATHAN LEFEVER, ORGANIST
A/V: MARK ANDERSON, GARRETT KOLEDAL, GUS BEAULIEU**

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.

Video Recordings of the service can be found on the Highland website at www.HighlandPC.org

In the event of an emergency, please refer to the card in the pew racks for evacuation and re-assembly information.