



**July 12, 2020  
Worship Packet**



**PRELUDE**

Bach, [https://youtu.be/bVaV\\_O8UaaE](https://youtu.be/bVaV_O8UaaE)

Chopin, <https://youtu.be/107Iwx5RKSM>

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**One:** God's word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

**Many:** We gather round table, font, and pulpit to root ourselves in sacred story and grow in faith.

**One:** God's teachings are our heritage; they bring joy to searching hearts.

**All:** We gather in God's presence to offer our thanks and praise!

## **OPENING HYMN**

<https://youtu.be/sx1eMwIDFb8>

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Patient and persistent God, we come, polished and presentable, to this comfortable room as if we knew what to expect, as if this were a safe and predictable place, as if we could simply observe. Holy One, forgive our tepid expectations. In the mystery of your love, overshadow us. Plant the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts until we bloom and spill with your passion to serve in a world that is wasting. Amen.**

## **SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

### **DECLARATION OF PARDON**

**God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. God loves a humble and contrite heart. Hear the Good News and know it is true for you, because of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are a forgiven people. Amen.**

### **AN ACT OF PRAISE**

**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.**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**God of life, by the power of your Spirit come to us now. Plow our hearts with your living Word until we who are broken become fertile with your love, for we long to bear fruit in a world that is wasting. We pray in the name of Jesus, whose charge we bear.  
Amen.**

One: Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed, O you who answer prayer!

**Many: To you all flesh shall come. When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions. Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts.**

One: We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple. By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation, you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

**Many: By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might. You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.**

One: Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

**Many: You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it. You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.**

One: You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

**All: The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.**

**OLD TESTAMENT**

Isaiah 55:10-13

Joan Pivnichny

**For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Stephanie DeGeneste*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYZtZtBr1pk>

**GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

*Rev. Lynn Santulli*

**That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'**

**‘Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.’**

**SERMON**

*Rev. Lynn Santulli*

**The Parable of the Sower**

**Sowing Hearts – Reaping Love**

A sower goes out to sow, throwing seed it seems everywhere, on good soil and bad, even on rocks themselves. Birds swoop down and eat the seed and some of the seed probably bakes on the hot Palestinian rocks. Some of that living seed never even has a chance to take root. This is the practice of first century farming, something the listeners to Jesus’ parable knew all too well. Something we in 2020 have to unpack a bit to understand.

As with any parable, we ponder these stories, reflect on who we are in the story, with whom and with what do we resonate? We research first-century practices and examine the Greek in the texts to mine for deeper meanings. What can we learn from our research and ponderings? Where and how does the Holy Spirit move in our thoughts and hearts as we read this passage yet again? How does this story challenge us in our faith? These are all exceptionally good questions.

My husband, who used to love gardening, doesn’t garden any more. Instead, I have tried to take up the trowel (so to speak) and, as a gift of love for him, plant and tend the plants that adorn our home often desperately trying to remember all of the things I heard him talk about in years past. Prepare the soil for the plants, knowing

what you are going to plant and what nutrients that plant needs in order to thrive, were some of the things I remember. I also remember his horror when I made the mistake of calling the soil ‘dirt’ – he quickly and emphatically explained that dirt was what I removed from the house (I chose not to be offended by this remark) and soil was what God gave us to plant in.

First century farmers may not have paid much attention to the ground they were throwing seeds onto, but this generation certainly does. Seed is too expensive to throw away and keeping pests away from eating the fruits of our labor now seems to be something worthy of our time (I discovered this as I waited for the hour our local deer, named Susan by our neighbor, would pass through our plantings. I go out and tell her to ‘move along, Susan, nothing to eat here!’)

Are we as passionate about the planting of God’s Word in our own lives? I hope so. How do we know if we are bearing fruit (or as Mother Teresa would advocate, blooming in place)? Are we caring for ourselves in the midst of this pandemic, especially as we have had to endure so many disruptions of our lives and accommodated changes that are coming at rapid-fire pace? You experienced gardeners (and you know who you are) can provide much more depth to this reflection, but here are some thoughts from an elementary gardener.

1. Just as plants need to be watered, we, too, need refreshment for our souls. If we have deep roots we can sustain droughts longer, of course, but we all need a long, cool drink of God’s refreshing streams of mercy and grace to fill us with life. Imagine yourself in the Lord’s garden and a cool stream flowing through it that is beautiful, clear, sparkling and cool. Take a drink from it and allow this image to fill your soul. Note where the dry and brittle places are in your life and imagine new life coming to them.
2. We need to be fed with God’s Word as well. We make time for so many things, and some things take longer than they used to, but we should always make time to read and study God’s Word, Online options, our weekly Wednesday night Zoom class, bible study books or Christian living are just some of the options. Worship is another place we come and are filled, opening ourselves to God’s Word and quieting the noise and distractions from our own lives.
3. Plants naturally seek the light (some more than others, of course, I learned this with shade plants that I left in the burning sun). Seeking God’s Light in serving others, singing, writing, praying, fellowshiping (socially distant, of

course), are just some of the ways we grow towards God and realize that we grow because of what He has done in us.

4. Weeding and dead-heading is important as well. If you find yourself complaining (about others, yourself, life in general), recognize this as a bitter weed that needs to be removed. Name it and pull it out of your life so that room can be made for joy and new growth. Do old ways of thinking no longer serve you? Perhaps it is time to ponder anew.
5. Honor the diversity of creation. We are not all created for the same purpose. Flowers or vegetable; ground cover or shrubs, shade-loving plants or plants that soak up the glory of the sun are all part of God's creation. Together we are part of a garden that is rich, diverse, loved by God and beautiful.

As one gardener has recently written, it's time to get back to the garden! In this summer season, nurture your soul, grow in faith, deepen the roots of your understanding and reach for the Light. Make time for worship, for study, for prayer, for service. That is where you will discover joy and life abundant!

**SERMON HYMN**                      <https://youtu.be/vMLQ8vKBRQU> (organ only)

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**                      **Apostle's Creed**

**I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

*Reflect on what offering might make to those around you and to the community. Commit your tithes to church (you can even go to the*

*church's website and click on 'Donate Now' to send in your gifts or mail them to the church office.)*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below; praise Him above ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Darcella Sessomes*

**Praying for:** Barbara Smith (COVID); Thylene Torres, Thylene's mother (surgery);

**Homebound:** Sonnia Cook

**Bereavement:** The Germinder family on the passing of George Germinder, a brother in Christ.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

**\* CLOSING HYMN**

<https://youtu.be/pVccvOzP9N4>

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Go from this time of worship and sow seeds of love, grace, hope and peace to all you encounter, spreading the Good News with hearts aflame with love.**

**May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord shine His holy face upon you and fill you with the blessings of the Holy Spirit.**



## POSTLUDE

Bach, [https://youtu.be/1qhOpM\\_MQEs](https://youtu.be/1qhOpM_MQEs)

*Thank you so much!*

Thank you so much for the flowers, gift card, limerick and standing ovation on Sunday!

How blessed I am serve such a wonderful congregation. Even in the midst of a pandemic, Christ's light shines bright here at CAPC!





## Holy Seeds

The Master Sower  
holds His Holy Seeds  
in the Palms of His Hands...  
the Holy Seeds of His Word...  
the Word Incarnate through His Son  
Jesus Christ.

The Master Sower...  
the Creator of every heart...  
intends for His Holy Word Seeds  
to take root wherever He sows,  
but the soil of every heart  
is not the same.

The Master Sower...  
once He unfolds His Hands  
to cast His Holy Word Seeds to the wind...  
knows not all will ever  
spring to life in each heart.

The Master Sower  
knows some of His Holy Word Seeds will fall on...  
soilless hearts where the evil one awaits  
preventing them from ever taking root...  
or fall on stone hearts where roots are established  
but cannot endure because they are not nurtured...  
or fall on thorn hearts where the world beckons

and Word Seeds are choked off before fully rooting.

No, not one...

not a soilless heart, a stone heart, a thorn heart  
can produce a single crop  
from God's Holy Word Seeds.

The Master Sower  
knows only a few hearts  
have been blessed with the spiritual understanding  
of grace ears which hear  
of grace eyes which see  
of grace souls which have spiritually matured.  
These are the hearts that will receive the  
Holy Word Seeds...  
allowing them to take root and yield crops of a hundredfold...  
harvested crops that will nourish the world  
with the Holy Word of God.

The Holy Seeds are in the wind.  
Is your heart prepared to receive them and  
Yield. A hundredfold. Crop.

Matt.13:1-23

js. haer  
07.07.2020