



8th Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2020

Prelude

This is My Father's World, Martha Main, YouTube

We are Called to Worship - The kin-dom of heaven is like: A tiny mustard seed that carries the life of a tree. The kin-dom of heaven is like: A tiny portion of yeast that makes bread rise. The kin-dom of heaven is like: A tiny pearl of great price that we would give all our “stuff” to have. The kin-dom of heaven is like: A fishing boat filled with catch—good and bad together—With fisherfolk wise to recognize the good.+

Gathering Prayer - Holy One, you call us to find your kin-dom already hidden in our world—in tiny, transforming possibilities; in beauty that calls us to surrender all; in complicated choices that call for wisdom. Reveal yourself here in this moment and heighten our senses that we may find you and join you in building this kin-dom of love, and hope, and peace. In the name of the One who calls us to seek, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.+

Song 1

All Creatures of Our God and King, 23, YouTube

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

A Time of Prayer: *You are welcome to send prayer requests to Pastor Sarah. Spend a few moments connecting with God and lifting up your prayers.*

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.

Special Music

We're Marching to Zion, YouTube, Martha Main

Song 2

Hymn of Promise, 515, YouTube

We Hear God's Word

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

31 He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

33 He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

44 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

45 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

47 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

51 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵²And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Meditation

Wonders in the Garden

Spiritual Practice of the Week



Find a seed. Maybe you have some fruits or veggies with seeds. Spend some time reflecting on that seed and the potential that exists within it under the right conditions. Just as God sees the potential that exists in that tiny seed, God sees the potential in you and your neighbors for the work of God's kin-dom. How might you nurture the potential in you and others for kin-dom building?

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Offertory

Friends, we may not be together in person today as we worship, but the ministry of our church goes on. During this time when we are apart, we are still in need financial support for our ministry.

You're invited to take out your checkbook in these moments. As you write out your offering, be prayerful with each letter and number. In times such as these, when money becomes tight and our economy is under strain, God invites us to be generous and give what we can. These are gifts we freely give, as we are able and as we are called.

We ask that you please mail in your offerings to our office.

Zion United Church of Christ

8916 E. Troy Ave.

Indianapolis, IN 46239

You can now submit your offerings on our website through a secure PayPal donation button. Please know that PayPal receives a 2.2% processing fee and a \$0.30 transaction charge. You are able to set up reoccurring, monthly payments. Check it out on our website at www.zionuccindy.net/donate.

The Doxology (Please sing the version that is most meaningful to you)

Version 1

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Version 2

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.*

***We Give Thanks** (unison) – Grow these gifts in your love, bless our offerings, our hearts and our hopes in your love to make us worthy of your work for your Kin-dom in heaven, and among us here, even now. Fill these gifts and each of us with your goodness. Amen.+

Song 3

Renew Your Church, 462, YouTube

We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing - Go forth in Wisdom, in hope, in courage with hearts open to recognize the signs of the reign of God in our midst, and courage to create more space for grace in our lives and our world. Go forth this day to love and serve the LORD. Amen.+

Postlude

Seek Ye First, Martha Main, YouTube

Worship Note: You might be wondering why our Call to Worship and Gathering Prayer use the word “kin-dom.” This term is popular in contemporary theology and is used as a way of emphasizing the mutuality that exists in God’s reign. As God’s people, we are kin or family. This is in contrast to the human concept of a political kingdom which is ruled by hierarchy where some come out on top while many are subjugated to the rule of a few. +UCC Worship Ways