



6th Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 2020

Prelude

There Is a Balm in Gilead, Martha Main, YouTube

We are Called to Worship - You are the Sower, O God, we are the seed. God's word is being sown in our lives this day with the promise of new growth. You are the Lover, O God, we are the beloved. God's love blossoms in our lives with a beauty greater than the lilies of the field. You are the Healer, O God, we are the healed. God's healing flows through our lives with every beat of our heart. You are the Potter, O God, we are the clay. God's hand fashions us to shine with the glory of Christ's light. Come! Let us worship the one who sows us in fields of love.~

Gathering Prayer - Great Sower, cast us like seeds upon the winds of your mercy, that we may grow in fertile ground. Keep our lives from stony pathways, where the heat of life's cares and strife strip our strength and vitality. Protect us from thorny gullies, where the snares of life's worries and fears block the sunshine of your Spirit. Land us safely in rich soil, Master Gardener, and bless us with the kiss of gentle rain, that our faith may increase and our joy may be complete. Amen.~

Song 1

Thy Word, 664, 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

It Only Takes a Spark, YouTube
Martha Main on piano and Michael Main on guitar

Song 2

Wonderful Words of Life, 668, YouTube

We Hear God's Word

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹³That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!'

¹⁸'Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When 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. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet 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. ²²As 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. ²³But 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.'

Meditation

Sowing in the Garden

Spiritual Practice of the Week



Reflect and perhaps journal. Who helped sow the seeds of the Good News in your life? When in your life have you been like each of the different soils Jesus names? What conditions in your life helped determine the kind of soil you were? How might you sow seeds of Good News this week?

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 in 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) – Master Gardener, as you have sown our lives in a rich and fertile soil, may we bear much fruit through our giving. With these offerings, may your realm be brought to earth, as we plant seeds of hope in the fields of life. Bless our gifts and our ministry, that the world may reap a harvest of generosity and love. Amen.~

Song 3

Sent Forth By God's Blessing, 712, YouTube

We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing - God's word is a lamp to our feet. Christ's teachings are a light to our path. May God's word take root in our lives. May Christ's love nourish us like sunshine and spring rain. God's word is a lamp to our feet. Christ's teachings are a light to our path. Go forth this day to love and serve the LORD. Amen.~

Postlude

How Majestic Is Your Name, Martha Main, YouTube