



First Congregational United Church of Christ

July 30, 2023



The parable of the Sower by JESUS MAFA

**Pester
the
Pastor**

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Chandler Litterst

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Ann Russ

Liturgist: Nancy Starr

Gathering Music
Words of Welcome
Prelude

Words to Enter Worship (Based on Beatitudes in the Gospel of Matthew)

People who plant: **Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**

People who bake: **Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**

People who work: **Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.**

People who fish: **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.**

First Opening Hymn

Nothing Can Separate Us

Words and Music: Amy Sens

D G D A

No- thing can se- pa - ra- te us from the deep, deep love of God. Not

6 D G D A D

trials. or temp - ta - tions, from the deep, deep love of God. 1. In
2. If
3. God's

10 D G D

times of deep - est sor - row, when all joy seems lost and gone, Christ
God our judge is for us, then who can stand a- gainst? Christ
love: the ground we walk on, God's love: the air we breathe, God's

14 D G A D

stays our true com - pa - nion; we are ne - ver left a - lone.
Je - sus laid his life down, our way to make a - mends.
love: the sim - ple sun - shine, God's love: our own heart beat.

Tune: BORG
7.7.7.7D

Second Opening Hymn

A Better Place

Refrain

God is mak - ing— this world a bet-ter place;

God is mak - ing— this world a bet-ter place;

God is mak - ing— this world a bet-ter place;

through the things we do when we live Je - sus' way.

1. When we choose to be peace - mak - ers,
2. When we choose to act with jus - tice,

when we choose to give more than take,
hon - or and re - spect ev - 'ry race,

when we hon - or our Cre - a - tor,
when the earth knows it can trust us,

then we're liv - ing in— the Je - sus way.
then we're liv - ing in— the Je - sus way.

Words of Lament

God, by whose words and vision created this world and universe, we are witnessing the extinction of too many of your creations, our animal and plant relations. We are living through an era of global unrest and larger-than-life weather events. Wake us up, O God who calls and the universe answers. Wake us up to the errors and destructiveness of our ways. Amen.

Tme of Silence

Blessing of the Earth Shalom by Rev. Enno K. Limvere

One: Listen to the birds as they call out greetings and warnings,
Watch the butterfly, the ant, and the bees start their mornings.

Many: **Bless the water, the soil, and the air,**

Bless all living things that we may move with care.

All: **Feel the grass upon our feet, and the wind upon our face,**

Taste the fresh picked raspberry, and smell the flowers in the vase,

One: Bless the senses of our bodies that connect us to the earth,

Bless the Creator, who formed the universe, and gave it birth.

Many: **The symphony of the world is a sound to behold,**

It is the story of harmony; connecting past, present, and foretold.

All: **Bless the way that loves everything that breathes,**

Bless with shalom, the earth, the wind, and the trees.

Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace

It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peacemakers as a Just Peace Church.

R. S. Thomas, “The Kingdom” [Poetry for Ordinary Time]

It's a long way off but inside it
There are quite different things going on:
Festivals at which the poor man
Is king and the consumptive is
Healed; mirrors in which the blind look
At themselves and love looks at them
Back; and industry is for mending
The bent bones and the minds fractured
By life. It's a long way off, but to get
There takes no time and admission
Is free, if you will purge yourself
Of desire, and present yourself with
Your need only and the simple offering
Of your faith, green as a leaf.
Passing of the Peace

The Body of Christ

Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Rev. Enno K. Limvere

D $\text{♩} = 140$ G D

If we grow to - ge - ther if we move with each o - ther, the bo - dy of Christ are

8 A D G D A D

we. We each have a - part We each are a mem - the bo - dy of Christ are we.

17 D G D

1. We are born to hear, born to see, born to be a child of
 2. There are dif - ferent gifts, dif - ferent works, given the Spi - rit from a -
 3. God has arranged us in, one bo - dy, In - spen - sa - ble all are

24 A D G D

God. We are born to touch, born to walk, Up - pon God's
 bove. Toward on goal, one com - mon pur - pose. To serve our
 we. If one is honored, or one suf - fers, We share it to -

31 A D

path we all will trod
 God with all our herat
 gether a fam - i - ly.

Scripture Reading 1st Scripture 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; 32 it 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 a man found and reburied; 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; 46 on 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; 48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and 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.” 52 And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Your paragraph text

Children’s Message

Mustard Seed

Choir Anthem

Message

Pester the Pastor

Musical Reflections

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, Mother God, 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Our Time of Giving

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, making us one;

Justice and peace under the sun. Amen

Closing Hymn Imago Dei

Imago Dei

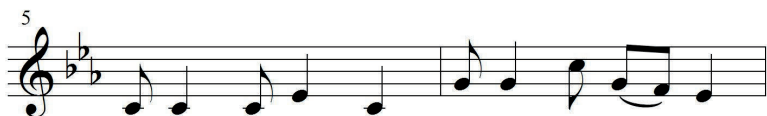
Jill Kirsten Warner
Arr. Ron E Parker



I - mag - o De - i, I - mag - o De - i,



Born in the Im-age of God are we.



I - mag - o De - i, I - mag - o De - i,



Called to Com-pass-ion; Born to be free.

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How shall we live as im - ag - es of God?
How shall we love the neigh-bor filled with greed?
Then shall we see the im - ag - es of Christ.



How best re - flect the won - der of our mak - er?
How best re - spond to those con - sumed by hat - red?
Then shall we know that God is in our neighbor.



Hum - bly we will walk, with
Look be - yond the fear that
Hum - bly we will walk, with



mer - cy re - spond and know the
keeps them from know - ing the a -
mer - cy re - spond and know the



Es - sence of Love is al - ways with us.
bund - ance of Love that's al - ways with us.
Es - sence of Love is al - ways with us.

Benediction Sending Music



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LIST: Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Mike Carlson, Gwen Dornfeld, Sally Dunn, Family of SueEllen Kruse, for Levi Axtell and Family, Family of Lawrence Scully, All Victims of Gun Violence, Immigrants and Refugees, Countries of Ukraine, Sudan, and Planet Earth.

Shut-ins and Care Center: Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, Bev Denyes, Nancy Cihlar and Tom Hedstrom.

MEASURE OF OUR FAITHFULNESS (printed before information available)

THIS WEEK:

THURSDAY, July 27

No Tai Chi
12:00 PM – Women’s AA

FRIDAY, July 28

7:00 AM – AA
8:00 AM – Harbor Watch
12:15 PM – Youth Group flies into the Twin Cities and returns home.

SATURDAY, July 29

SUNDAY, July 30

9:30 AM – Pick-up Choir Practice
10:30 AM Worship Service – **OUTSIDE AND ON ZOOM** 9th Sunday after Pentecost, it is a fifth Sunday of the month. Pastor Enno will entertain questions, queries, and disagreements over sermon topics, theology, and who is the church and what are we supposed to be about. The scripture this day comes from the Gospel of Matthew and is the parable of the mustard seed. What small question or discussion this day may grow into good fruit or a spicy conversation?

4:00 PM – Journey Discipleship Group

MONDAY July 31

5:00 PM Rooted and Rising: Rain Gardens down by Grand Marais Public Library
7:00 PM – Al-Anon

TUESDAY, August 1

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM - Explorer’s Club
12:15 PM Heal Our Planet

WEDNESDAY, August 2

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM - Explorer’s Club
5:00 PM – Voices for Change at Pavilion

THURSDAY, August 3

10:00 AM - Tai Chi
11:00 AM – Building and Grounds Committee
12:00 PM – Women’s AA

FRIDAY, August 4

7:00 AM – AA
8:00 AM – Harbor Watch

SATURDAY, August 5

SUNDAY, August 6

9:30 AM – Choir Practice
10:30 AM Worship Service – **Inside AND ON ZOOM** 10th Sunday after Pentecost.

