

6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GATHERING PRAYER:

O God, we gather together in Your presence with expectation, hungry for an encounter with You, eager to hear Your Word.

Open our eyes and ears to the presence of Your Holy Spirit. May the seeds of Your Word scattered among us this morning fall on fertile soil.

May they take root in our hearts and lives and produce an abundant harvest of good words and deeds.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG: Glory to the Love (music at end of bulletin)

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- A woman had a challenging dream that she walked into a new shop in the mall and to her surprise, found God behind the counter. "What do you sell here?" she asked. "Everything your heart desires," said God. "Everything." Hardly daring to believe what she was hearing, the woman decided to ask for the best things a human could wish for. "I'll take some peace of mind and love and happiness and wisdom and freedom from fear," she said. Then as an afterthought, she added, "Not just for me. For everyone on earth." God smiled. "I think you've got me wrong, my dear," God said, "We don't sell the fruits here. We only sell the seeds."
- "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant."

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: God who never gives up on us, who is always working to plant the seeds of love and new life:

All: Open our minds to the truth of your care.

One: Open our hearts to the gentle power of your love.

All: Open our lips to share stories of faith.

One: Open our hands to create beauty, to do justice and to show kindness.

All: Open our souls to the breath of your Spirit.

One: Keep working to plant the seeds of love and new life in us until there is a harvest.

KYRIE: Kyrie Eleison – Response #2 (music at end of bulletin)

OUR CONFESSION PRAYER:

One: Lord Jesus Christ, we remember with gratitude those people who generously sowed the seeds of faith in our lives.

(Silence for reflection)

Above all, we recognize how you have blessed our lives with the gift of the Holy Spirit so that our faith has miraculously and mysteriously grown.

We confess the times we fail to involve ourselves in planting any seeds of faith in the lives of others; the times when our personal agendas become more important than yours; the times when we have denied others the opportunity to expand their faith through our lack of interest or involvement; the times when our lives become so entangled with the values of the world that we forget what you have said and done and promised.

Lord Jesus Christ, we know that when we become disconnected from you, our lives becomes parched and unfruitful and our faith becomes stunted and dry. Bless and renew our lives, we pray, so that we remain connected to you at all times and in all places, strengthening our faith to expand and, growing strongly and vigorously, to bear the fruit of your mercy, your love, your undying life.

All: Amen.

Blessing/Assurance of Pardon:

One: The God of love, forgiveness and the opportunity to change does not condemn you for your sins. You are forgiven in the name of the Creator, and of the Savior, and Sustainer. God offers you the strength to grow and to bear fruit in your lives on this day and eternally.

All: Amen.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: What Have We Done For the Poor Ones? v. 1, 4 & 6 (music at end of bulletin)

THE LESSON: Matthew 13:1-9 - The Parable of the Sower

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 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!"

MESSAGE: "When you listen, what do you hear?"

MESSAGE RESPONSE: Let It Be Said of Us (music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT:

God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart. **Amen.**

God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace. **Amen.**

God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE SENDING SONG: Sent Forth By God's Blessing (music at end of bulletin)

FINAL REFLECTION: "Don't Just"

Don't just learn, experience. Don't just read, absorb. Don't just change, transform. Don't just relate, advocate. Don't just promise, prove. Don't just criticize, encourage.

Don't just think, ponder. Don't just take, give.

Don't just see, feel. Don't just dream, do.

Don't just hear, listen. Don't just talk, act.

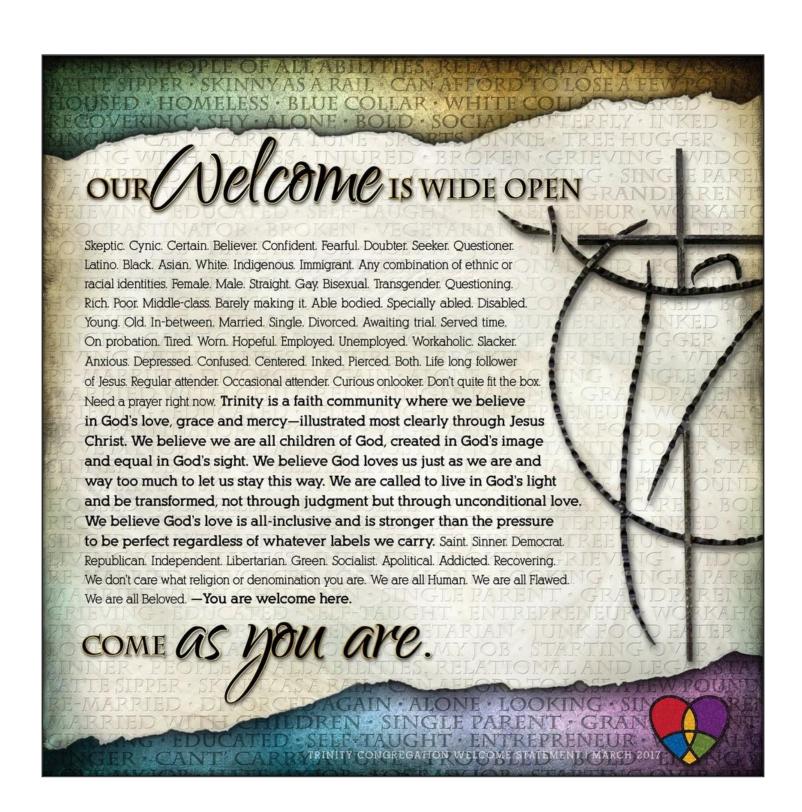
Don't just tell, show. Don't just exist, live."

- Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*



Thank you to the singers who participated in creating the virtual choral recording of "Let It Be Said Of Us":

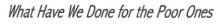
Patrick Budoff, Rick Gilbertson, Lori Hassig, Gaytha Hillman, Darci Ketter, Laura Mitchell and Phil Pierce.







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