



JUNE 19-20, 2021

4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Pastoral Welcome and Announcements

Thoughts for the Day:

- ❖ *Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not. - C.S. Lewis*
- ❖ *If God had a flower for each moment He thought of you, the whole universe would be a garden. - Matshona Dhliwayo*

Call to Worship:

Leader: From the fullness of God's love we are showered with blessings.

All: Whether we recognize these gifts or not.

Leader: God never stops sowing the seeds of new life.

All: May that life find a place in us.

Song: O God, Whose Word Well-Planted (music at end of bulletin)

Our Confession:

God of steadfast love, you delight in your creation. You spread your palette of reds and golds, purples and greens for all to see. But we get caught up in speeding through life, intent on accomplishing more, yet somehow enjoying it less.

Open our eyes to the wonder all around. Spin us around to see and appreciate.

Let the joy of life touch our hearts and laughter fill our souls. Slow us down enough to marvel at the splendor around us and to let loose a prayer of thanks. Stir us to be a community of joy, a people of praise, a center of healing. Help your love grow in us so that your love might multiply and spread through the world.

Amen.

Confession Response: Good Soil (music at end of bulletin)

Gospel:

Matthew 13:1-23 (The Message)

This is one of Jesus' parables and sometimes called the Parable of the Sower or Farmer. Jesus' uses this story to help His hearers understand how God's kingdom, or reign and rule, is at work with God giving and differing responses resulting. He also links it to their Jewish heritage with the prophet Isaiah, suggesting similar responses existed from some in his time.

¹⁻³ At about that same time Jesus left the house and sat on the beach. In no time at all a crowd gathered along the shoreline, forcing him to get into a boat. Using the boat as a pulpit, he addressed his congregation, telling stories.

³⁻⁸ “What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn't put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled by the weeds. Some fell on good earth, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.

⁹ “Are you listening to this? Really listening?”

Why Tell Stories?

¹⁰ The disciples came up and asked, “Why do you tell stories?”

¹¹⁻¹⁵ He replied, “You've been given insight into God's kingdom. You know how it works. Not everybody has this gift, this insight; it hasn't been given to them. Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, the insights and understandings flow freely. But if there is no readiness, any trace of receptivity soon disappears. That's why I tell stories: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward a welcome awakening. In their present state they can stare till doomsday and not see it, listen till they're blue in the face and not get it. I don't want Isaiah's forecast repeated all over again:

Your ears are open but you don't hear a thing.

Your eyes are awake but you don't see a thing.

The people are stupid!

They stick their fingers in their ears

so they won't have to listen;

They screw their eyes shut

so they won't have to look,

so they won't have to deal with me face-to-face

and let me heal them.

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ “But you have God-blessed eyes—eyes that see! And God-blessed ears—ears that hear! A lot of people, prophets and humble believers among them, would have given anything to see what you are seeing, to hear what you are hearing, but never had the chance.

The Meaning of the Harvest Story

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ “Study this story of the farmer planting seed. When anyone hears news of the kingdom and doesn't take it in, it just remains on the surface, and so the Evil One

comes along and plucks it right out of that person's heart. This is the seed the farmer scatters on the road.

²⁰⁻²¹ “The seed cast in the gravel—this is the person who hears and instantly responds with enthusiasm. But there is no soil of character, and so when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it.

²² “The seed cast in the weeds is the person who hears the kingdom news, but weeds of worry and illusions about getting more and wanting everything under the sun strangle what was heard, and nothing comes of it.

²³ “The seed cast on good earth is the person who hears and takes in the News, and then produces a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.”

Sermon: *“The Careful Gardener!?”* Pastor David Schoob

Message Response: *Almighty God, Your Word is Cast*
(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:

L: May the blessings of God warm you like the sun.

May the love of Christ wash over you like a gentle rain.

May the joy of the Spirit raise you to new heights like an eagle.

Go in peace.

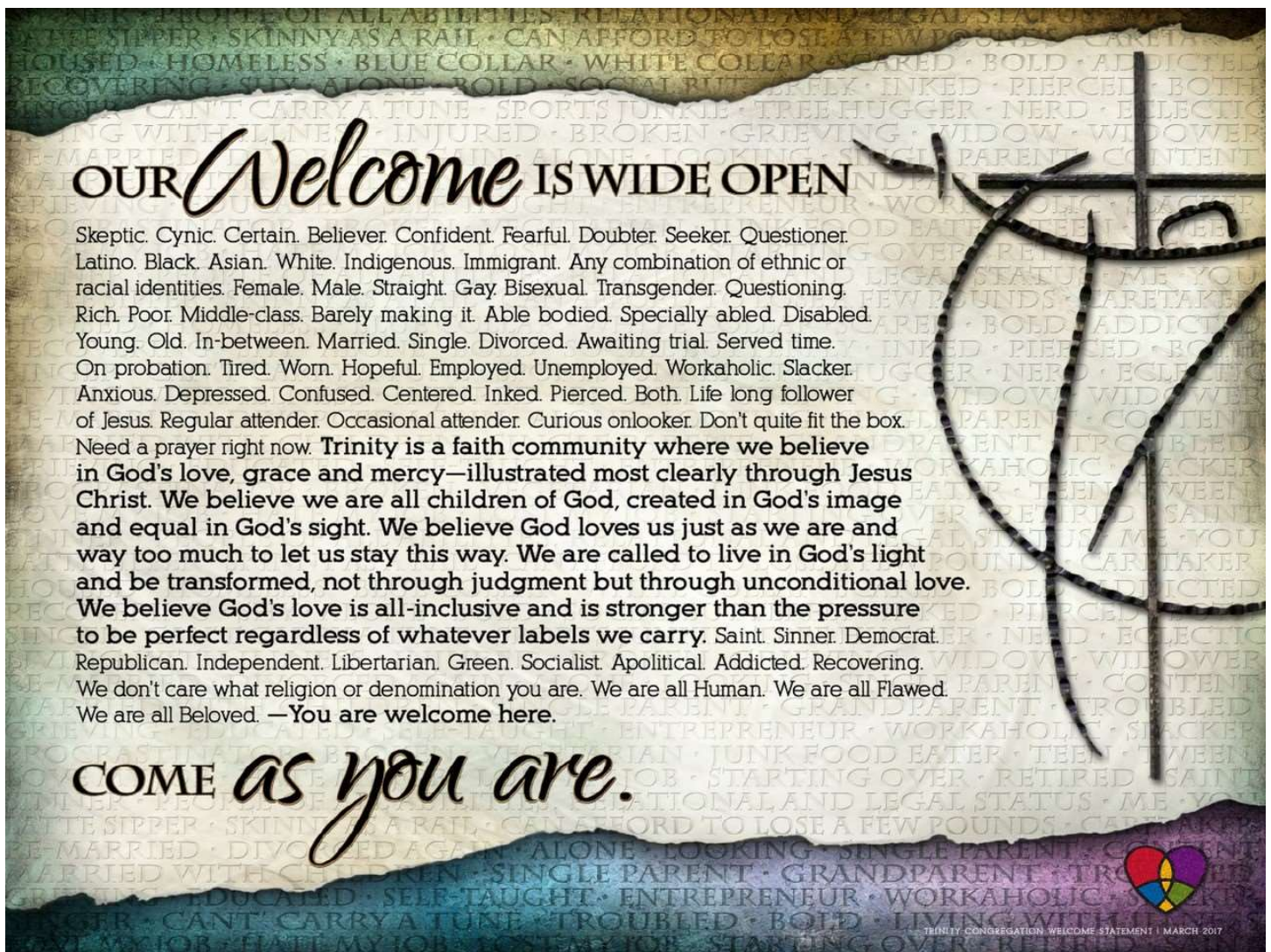
A: Amen!

Song: *May This Church Be Like a Tree* (music at end of bulletin)

The Dismissal:

Leader: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God



O God, Whose Word Well-Planted. Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr.; Music: Stephen P. Folkemer. Text and Music © 1990 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission under One License #-714192. All rights reserved.

Good Soil (Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil). Words and Music by Handt Hanson. © 1985 Changing Church / Prince of Peace, admin. Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Reprinted with permission under One License #-714192. All rights reserved.

Almighty God, Your Word is Cast. Words: John Cawood. Music: J. Day, *Psalter*. Public Domain.

May This Church Be Like a Tree. Spanish text and music: Pablo D. Sosa.; tr. Andrew Donaldson. Spanish text and music © 2011 GIA Publications, inc. English text © 2013 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under One License #-714192. All rights reserved.

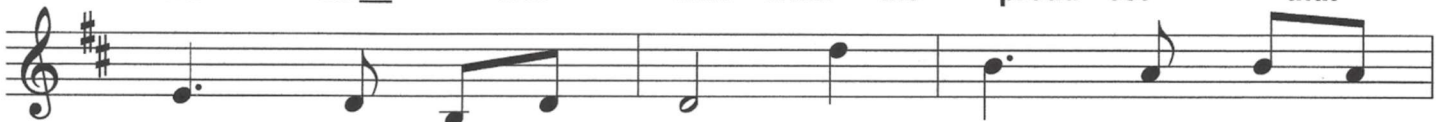
O God, Whose Word Well-Planted



O God, whose word well-plant-ed yields fruit a hun-dred -
O God of seed and har-vest, of sun and soil and
O God, your fi-nal har-vest of his - t'ry's an-cient



fold, we__ praise your grac - es grant - ed to__
rain, at__ - tend the word we sow, lest its
field will__ test with truth the proud est that



those who sowed of old, who by their wit - ness
plant - ing be in vain. Send show - ers of your
hu - man work can yield. Op - pres - sion's blight will



scat - tered good seed up - on the soil where__
Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace, that__
van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease; and__



oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the__ har - vest of their toil.
mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace
love and joy will flour - ish to__ clothe the earth with peace.

Good Soil

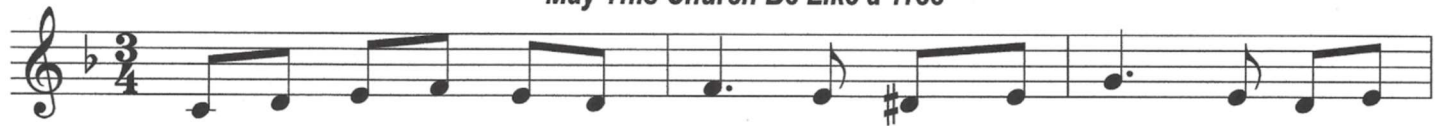
Lord, let my heart be good soil, o - pen to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un - der - stood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on Your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

516

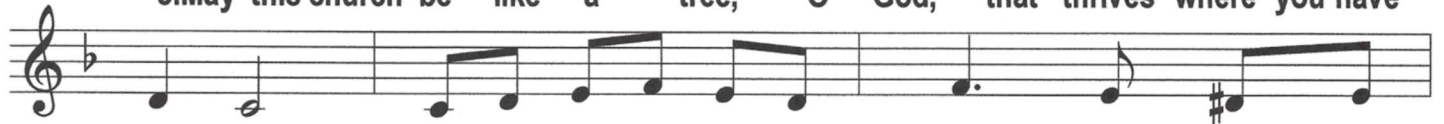
Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

1 Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,
now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

May This Church Be Like a Tree



1. May this church be like a tree, be - hind your house, there in your
2. May this church be like a tree there in the street or in the
3. May this church be like a tree, O God, that thrives where you have



gar - den, meet - ing place for joy and feast and sim - ple
pla - za, for the birds a nest - ing branch, for pass - ers -
plant - ed; may it stand to show the way, your way of



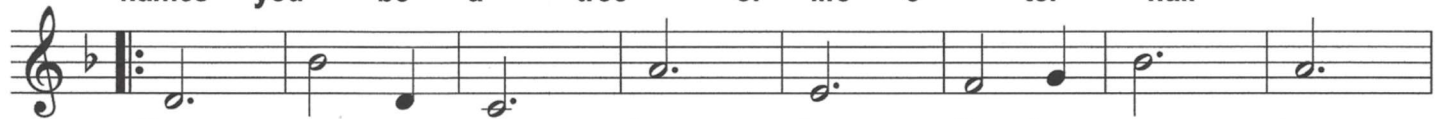
prayer be - neath its branch - es. With its roots in earth so fer - tile
by a wel - come shel - ter. May it stand as if it's watch - ing,
lov - ing and self - giv - ing, of - f'ring shade and fruit for shar - ing,



and its arms raised high to heav - en, may this church bear fruits of
near my house, just round the corn - er, wait - ing for this wea - ry
giv - ing up its wood for burn - ing. May this liv - ing church that



jus - tice, acts of lov - ing and com - pas - sion.
pil - grim with its arms wide to em - brace me.
names you be a tree of life e - ter - nal.



Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,



run - ning e - tern - nal, flow - ing from God. ___ God. ___