

Family Service 26th July 2026

8th Sunday after Trinity – Parables of the Kingdom

Welcome and Notices

Opening Prayer

Let us pray

Heavenly Father,
you look at the smallest things and see greatness.
Look at us and see your beloved children.
Open our eyes today to see your Kingdom growing around us.
Open our hearts to receive the seed of your Word,
and mix your Holy Spirit into our lives like yeast in dough.
Change us, grow us, and fill this space with your Joy,
so that we can share your love with the whole world.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Opening song; Come, people of the risen King

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is in you,
the hope of glory in our hearts.
He lives! He lives! His breath is in you,
arise a mighty army we arise!*

Now is the time for us to march upon the land,
Into our hands, he will give the ground we claim.
He rides in majesty to lead us into victory,
the world shall see that Christ is Lord!

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is in you,
the hope of glory in our hearts.
He lives! He lives! His breath is in you,
arise a mighty army we arise!*

God is at work in us, his purpose to perform,
building a Kingdom of power not of words.
Where things impossible by faith shall be made possible;
let's give the glory to him now.

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is in you,
the hope of glory in our hearts.
He lives! He lives! His breath is in you,
arise a mighty army we arise!***

**Though we are weak, his grace is everything we need;
we're made of clay but this treasure is within.
He turns our weaknesses into his opportunities
so that the glory goes to him.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is in you,
the hope of glory in our hearts.
He lives! He lives! His breath is in you,
arise a mighty army we arise!***

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Saying sorry.

Jesus told us that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a tiny mustard seed, or a small pinch of yeast. God loves to take small things and make them grow. But sometimes, we let small, hidden mistakes grow inside our hearts instead- like unkind words, selfish thoughts, or forgetting to love others. Let us bring those things to God, now, knowing that his forgiveness is vast and his love is always growing.

(moment of silence)

We receive God's forgiveness:

May the Almighty God,
who takes the smallest seed of our repentance
and makes it grow into joy, have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins and keep you growing in his grace and love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.

Song: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet.

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.*

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.*

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
still you're there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near;
please be near me to the end.

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.*

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.*

I will not forget, your love for me, and yet
my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side,
and I will love you to the end.

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.*

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.*

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
still you're there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near;
please be near me to the end.

Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith © 1984 Word Music/Meadowgreen Music Co.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 13 v 31-35 (Eileen)

The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."

Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:

"I will open my mouth in parables,
I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world."

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

All age Focus: Hidden Power: Seed and Yeast.

Song: If I were a Butterfly

If I were a butterfly,
I'd thank you Lord for giving me wings;
And if I were a robin in a tree
I'd thank you Lord that I could sing.
And if I were a fish in the sea,
I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee
But I just thank you Father for making me, me.

*For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile.
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child,
And I just thank you Father for making me, me.*

If I were an elephant,
I'd thank you Lord by raising my trunk;
And if I were a kangaroo,
You know I'd hop right up to you.
And if I were an octopus,
I'd thank you Lord for my fine looks.
But I just thank you Father for making me, me.

*For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile.
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child,
And I just thank you Father for making me, me.*

If I were a wiggly worm,
I'd thank you Lord that I could squirm.
And if I were a fuzzy, wuzzy bear
I'd thank you Lord for my fuzzy, wuzzy hair,
And if I were a crocodile
I'd thank you Lord for my great smile.
But I just thank you Father for making me, me.

*For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile.
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child,
And I just thank you Father for making me, me.* (repeat chorus)

Brian Howard © Celebration music 1974

Talk: Richard.

Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
who made the world?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,
who redeemed mankind?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Intercessions, Collect and Lord's Prayer *(Julie)*

Responses

Lord, your will be done.
Your kingdom come in us.

Merciful Father
**Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen**

Collect for the 8th Sunday after Trinity

**Lord God
your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper, save us from pride,
when we are needy, save us from despair,
that we might trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Offertory song Seek ye First (The Kingdom of God)

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you,
Allelu, Alleluia.**

Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, And his righteousness,
Alleluia.**

**And all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu, Alleluia.**

**Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God,
Allelu, Alleluia.**

Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, And his righteousness,
Alleluia.**

**And all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu, Alleluia.**

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and you shall find.
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you,
Allelu, Alleluia.**

Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, And his righteousness,
Alleluia.**

**And all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu, Alleluia.**

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you,
Allelu, Alleluia.**

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, And his righteousness,
Alleluia.

And all these things shall be added unto you

Allelu, Alleluia.

Karen Laferty Copyright © 1972 CCCM Music

Offertory Prayer

Yours, Lord is the greatness,
the power, the glory,
the splendour and the majesty:
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

Amen.

The Peace:

Jesus said: "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." Just as yeast spreads quietly to transform the whole loaf, may Christ's peace spread through us to transform our community.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Sharing Time

Final Song: To God be the Glory *(instrumental)*

To God be the glory, great things he hath done,
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear his voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice;
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory; great things he hath done.*

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear his voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice;
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory; great things he hath done.*

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear his voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice;
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory; great things he hath done.*

Fanny Jane Crosby (1820-1915)

The Blessing

May God, who plants his love deep in our hearts,
help it to grow and bloom.

May the peace of the Kingdom, like a tiny seed
that becomes a great tree, fill you with courage.

May the joy of the Kingdom, like yeast rising in the dough,
lift your spirits every day.

And may the great treasure of God's love go with you,
surround you, and stay with you always.

Amen,

The Dismissal

The Kingdom of God is all around us, waiting to be discovered.
Go now to share God's love, to be sowers of peace,
and to bring light into the world.

We go to share God's love!

We go to be sowers of peace!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Refreshments at the back; prayer ministry at the front.

**We are here as God's family, to draw closer to God, to live out our faith
and welcome all into the love of God**