

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ 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. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears listen!

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

*WELCOME TO
ZION'S REFORMED CHURCH*

United Church of Christ

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Welcome to Zion's Reformed Church. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

For your safety and for the safety of others,

PLEASE

- ◆ Wear a mask
- ◆ Use hand sanitizer
- ◆ Practice social distancing
- ◆ Please remain seated for the entire service.

The Greeters and ushers at the front door are Vikki Young and Ruth Herrick and at the back door, Sue Nicklin and Chris Stockner.

The Altar flowers are placed in memory of Martha and Howard Enterline, by The Enterline and Wentling Families.

The Chancel flowers are placed in memory of Bob's parents, David and Alma Seiple and grandparents Leo and Minnie Seiple, by Bob and Pat Seiple.

There is no nursery care.

All children are invited to Fisher Hall after the Children's Message for a story and activity led by Lynn Rinella and Julie Hills.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

While we are now back in the sanctuary for worship, there are those who may prefer to continue to worship from home either because of Covid-19, because they live out of town, or for personal reasons. We will continue to livestream worship and post the videos on our Zion's Facebook page and our YouTube channel- Zion's Reformed Greenville PA.

Each week, the bulletin can be found on our website www.zionsucc.org or if you do not have a computer, please call the office and one will be mailed to you.

If you are aware of anyone who will continue to worship from home and would like a bulletin, please tell Julie.

PLEASE JOIN US IN WHATEVER WAY SEEMS MOST COMFORTABLE FOR YOU!



SUPPORT BENEVOLENT CARE AT ST. PAUL'S

St. Paul's will be participating in Giving Week through the Community Foundation of Western PA and Eastern OH, July 25th - July 31st.

All proceeds during this week will benefit benevolent care through the Good Samaritan Fund. Benevolent care is provided to residents who exhaust their financial resources and cannot afford the full cost of their care. This program ensures that no resident ever has to leave St. Paul's because of financial reasons.

At St. Paul's the need for benevolent care is great. 62% of the residents at St. Paul's in skilled nursing care and 12% of those living in personal care cannot afford to pay the full cost of their care.

An exciting part about Giving Week is that any donation that is made during this time will be matched by the Community Foundation on a prorated basis! The Community Foundation has \$130,000 available in match money.

There are two easy ways to give:

Credit Card - Donate online through the Community Foundation. (July 25th-31st) <https://www.paohgives.org/programs-1/ST.-PAUL'S>

1. **Check** - must be made payable to the Community Foundation of W PA & E OH with "St. Paul's" in the memo line. Mail to the Community Foundation of Western PA & Eastern OH at 7 West State Street, Suite 301, Sharon, PA 16146.

OR

Drop off in the lobby at The Villas.

All checks must be received in the Community Foundation's office between 8 a.m. on Monday July 27th and 3 p.m. on Friday July 31st to be eligible to receive match dollars.

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. June Boutwell, Senior Pastor

Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries

Please remain seated for the entire service.

July 19, 2020 10:30 a.m.

*Where the past and the future with Jesus Christ are celebrated
so the present can be lived abundantly.*

MEDITATION: Robert Louis Stevenson

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds that you plant.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda Seeley, Lector

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Leader: And now may we prepare our hearts and minds for worship as we are gathered in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT and THE PRELUDE

"At Daybreak", Godard Op. 83

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Isaiah 55:10-11

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

GATHERING SONG "God Is So Good" (CCLI #4956994)

God is so good, God is so good, God is so good,
God's so good to me.
God cares for me, God cares for me, God cares for me,
God's so good to me.
God loves me so, God loves me so, God loves me so,
God's so good to me.
God is so good, God is so good, God is so good,
God's so good to me.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The beauty of the world has been created by God.
People: The joys of the world have been blessed by God.
Leader: The anger of the world has been heard by God.
People: The fears of the world have been overcome by God.
Leader: The possibilities we possess have been given by God.
People: Let us worship God!

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN God Reigns o'er All the Earth (bulletin page 7)
(CCLI #260753)

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, save us from hardness of heart, where your word cannot take root. O Lord, save us from shallowness of mind, where your word withers away. O Lord, save us from the pursuit of riches, where your word is choked by everyday cares. Grant, O Lord, that our hearts may be fertile soil, where your word flourishes and yields a harvest, bringing redemption and growth to ourselves and those about us and to all your creation. Hear our silent prayers....

A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION AND PRAYER



THE GOOD SHEPHERD
CENTER JULY REQUESTS ARE

**PERSONAL CARE ITEMS AND
SCHOOL SUPPLIES,
HAND SANITIZER, MASKS AND
WET WIPES.**

The Thrift Store is now open for shopping on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00-4:00. Donations are accepted Monday through Friday from 10:00-4:00.

PRESCHOOL DONATIONS

Supplies for the preschool will be handled a little differently this year due to Covid-19. Each child will have their own box of crayons, markers, etc., rather than sharing with the whole class.

Would you like to donate items? Please bring them to the church office. Requested supplies are:

- Crayola Crayons (30 -classic colors pack of 8)
- Crayola Washable Markers (30 -classic color pack of 8)
- Crayola Washable Watercolors (30 -8 regular colors)
- Elmer's glue bottles (30 -4 oz.)
- Elmer's glue sticks (30- .77oz)
- Kleenex
- Hand sanitizer (at least 60 % alcohol, may not contain isopropanol or methyl alcohol)

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

Unison

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Natalie Sleeth composed her "Hymn of Promise" first as a choral anthem and then adapted it to this version for

Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Natalie Sleeth, 1985

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND LOVE

A SONG OF ASSURANCE "God Will Take Care of You"

**Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you;
 Beneath God's wings of love abide, God will take care of you.**

**God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;
 God will take care of you, God will take care of you.**

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND 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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

**Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer, O God.
 Incline your ear to us and grant us your peace.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Come Unto Him" from Messiah
 Lori Seinar-Roknick, soprano

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

SERMON Growing in Grace

OUR OFFERING TO GOD

We give our offerings to God—our treasure, our gifts, our labor. And God receives them all with graciousness. You may drop off your offering in the plates at the back of the sanctuary or in the office or mail them or use the "give" button on the website. Let us offer the doxology in response to the gifts we receive and return.

The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
 Praise God all creatures here below.
 Praise God above you heavenly host.
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" (bulletin page 8)
 (CCLI #126529)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE Prelude No. 3 in D Minor (B.W.V. 935) J. S. Bach

God Reigns o'er All the Earth

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

1 God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and val-leys low, the
 2 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Through youth and ag-ing years, in
 3 God reigns o'er time and space! In his-tory's by-gone days, Christ's
 4 God reigns! Em-man - u - el! God with us ev-ery day, in

farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beau-ty show.
 death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
 faith-ful folk in rev-erence spoke to bring God earn-est praise.
 all our past and to the last, our com-fort and our stay.

God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spread-ing plains, in
 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Our in-spi-ra-tion still. Through
 God reigns o'er time and space! O'er gal-ax-y and sun, through
 God reigns! Em-man - u - el! Let praise to Christ be sung! God's

rain-bow hues— reds, yel-lows, blues— of streams and coun-try lanes.
 all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reign-ing will.
 time-less years the cos-mos hears the heav-en-ly mu-sic run.
 pres-ence here makes all things dear. Let joy-ful bells be rung!

The author's notes on this text describe it as a progression of

Tune: TERRA BEATA S.M.D.