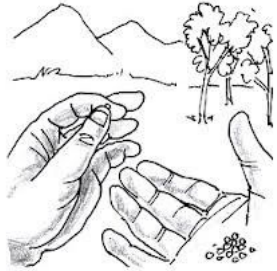


Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday July 30, 2023

Theme: The Stewardship of Potential



"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree." Matthew 13:31-32

GATHERING

Prelude: "Reflection on "Valley of Peace" Albin Whitworth

Greeting and Welcome to Worship

***Call to Worship** From Psalm 119 and 128

Leader: Happy are those who worship the LORD, who walk in God's ways.

People: We shall eat the fruit of our labors; we shall be happy, and it shall go well with us in our days.

Leader: God will keep your steps steady as God has promised, so never let yourself be led astray.

People: The unfolding of God's words gives light; it imparts understanding even to the simple.

Leader: God's ways are wonderful; therefore let us follow them with understanding and delight.

*Hymn: #49 "The God of Abraham Praise" (see download)

*Prayer of the Day and Confession

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking. Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask.

In your kindness, remind us that you formed the world as one glorious, diverse, and many-colored world. In ways the human community is short-sighted, and at times prideful and stubborn, we have distorted your intention for humanity and for all creation. Even as your church, we have often perpetuated the divisions Christ came to destroy. May we grant worthiness to serve to all who are uniquely equipped and called regardless of gender.

In your grace, forgive us and free us from the grip of narrow mindedness. Help us to worship and serve you joyfully for the sake of the salvation of the entire world, empowered through your Son our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN

Assurance of God's Love

Leader: Be assured that God leads us along, seeking to reclaim us and our world.

Sung Response: #436 "God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us" (verse 2)

"Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us, stilled our rude hearts with your word of consoling. Wrap now your peace, like a mantle, around us, guarding our thoughts and our passions controlling."

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Sermon: "Small Things Matter" (Five Short Parables Gathered as One)

Hymn: #714 "God of the Fertile Fields" (Tune: Come, Thou Almighty King)
(see download)

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, we know You love it when the giver delights in the giving. Together we

pray: God of grace, it is our delight and our devotion to give these gifts to you. All we are and all we have are yours alone. Accept this joyful offering as a token of our abiding love: use it to bring peace, justice and comfort to all the world. AMEN

Sharing Joys and Concerns

All Worshipers

Prayers of the People

*Hymn: #250 "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" (see download)

*Charge and Benediction

Leader: The kingdom may not open with great success, but success is its divinely ordained destiny. **People: As faithful disciples who accept and understand, we believe the good news and carry it with us.**

Postlude

"Closing Voluntary"

Stark

The End of Worship
The Beginning of Service

*Those who are able, please stand

Rev. James Shuler, Interim Pastor
Mrs. Dianne Yuninger, Organist/Choir Director

Prayers of the Congregation

Prayer Family this week: Steven & Charlene Boas

The Sanctuary Flowers are from a Friend of the Church

Announcements

PNC will meet Monday at 6:

6:30 p.m. Monday Field 1 **Leacock's soft ball team** plays Weaverland.

Leacock Presbyterian Church

First met in Leacock Township in 1724, recognized by the Synod in 1740, moved to Paradise in 1840.



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