

Parable of the Mustard Seed Poem

I'm glad that the stories of Jesus,
Were often of simple things,
That even I might understand.
The message that it brings.
Think of the grain of mustard seed,
The tiniest seed of all;
Hardly seen by the naked eye,

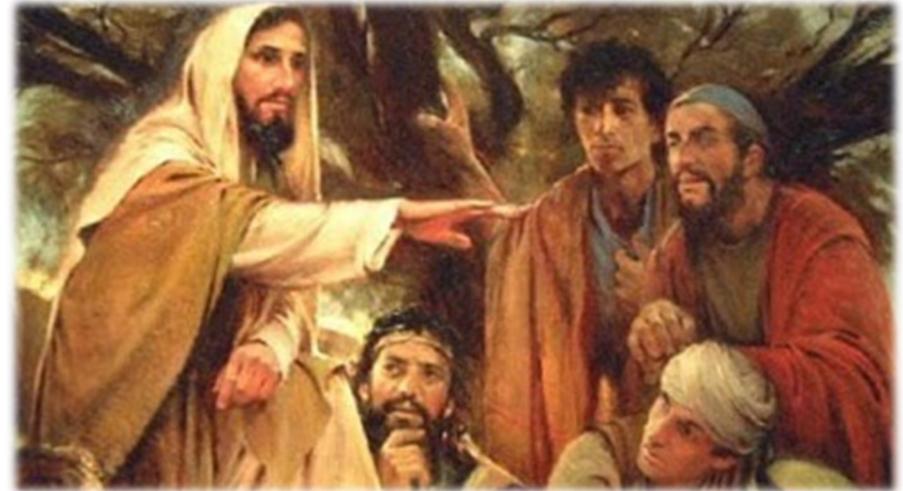


It is so very small.
But, from this small
beginning,
Soon - see it in the glade -
Strong and green and leafy,
Giving shelter cool and
shade.
Safe shelter for the birds,
In the leafy branches nest,
Shade for weary animals,

Taking their evening rest.
The gospel started the same snail way,
By Christ's followers, just the few,
And like the grain of mustard seed,
Spread everywhere - and grew.
Help to spread the message,
Though small your effort be,
Remember the tiny mustard seed,
That grew into a tree.

~ Hilda House

Sunday, July 26th, 2020
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Jesus Teaching

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Rev. Dan McKenty—Pastor

“Puzzling through the Parables”

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Liturgy for Sunday, July 26th, 2020

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: : *“The soul speaks to itself in parables. Like those dreams that have pleased us.”* – Joseph Joubert

Ringing of the Church Bell Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (responsive)

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.

**Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.**

Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.**

Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,
O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones. **Amen.**

Prelude

*** Hymn: “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”**

1 Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

2 Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.

Other News:

WOW (Women of Worship) will be on hiatus until September.

Our **Book Club** will be reading Jan Karon’s *“Somewhere Safe With Somebody Good”* for the **September 8th** Meeting. It’s a soothing and encouraging read about Father Tim, his family, and his beloved Mitford community.

New Security System

Our “go live” date for the new security system is **August 1st**. Entry to the church will be by fob from the parking lot. Fobs are free and available to all members. Simply sign up for a fob on the sign up sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary and your fob will be waiting for you next Sunday in an envelope in a basket in the sanctuary. After August 1st, entry to the church by key will be limited to the front door and 13th street side door. Fob entrance is quick, easy and safe. Sign up today!

White Marlin Tournament - Monday-Friday, August 3-7

The White Marlin Tournament is being held this year with reduced public events. We will need volunteers to manage parking space rentals in three shifts from 3-5, 5-7, and 7-9 this week. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

OC Air Show - Saturday/Sunday, August 15 - 16

The Ocean City Air Show is going forward on August 15th and 16th. We need volunteers to man the parking lot on the 15th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and on the 16th from 11:30 am to 4:00 pm. There is a sign up sheet for Air Show parking volunteers on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you so much!

Collection Plate

A reminder that, until we can resume our normal worship routines, our collection plate is situated on the small table in the center rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.

Directory Updates/Corrections:

Sue & Jim Latour—Correct Street Address to 12622 Sheffield Drive
Judie Kisly—NEW Address: 9500 Coastal Hwy #4N, Ocean City 21842
Susan Harris—NEW Phone # 443-783-6957

I'M SUPPOSED TO GIVE UP EVERYTHING AND MAKE THE KINGDOM OF GOD MY TOP PRIORITY, RIGHT?



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

ACTUALLY, JESUS IS THE MAN WHO SELLS IT ALL* TO BUY FIELD WHICH IS THE WORLD. HIS PEOPLE ARE HIS TREASURE**.



*PHIL 2:7 **PS 135:4

YOUR TOP PRIORITY IS NOT TO HAVE TREASURE, BUT TO BE TREASURED.



MATTHEW 13:13-33, 44-52



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3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of mystery, God of life,
we imagine that we are capable judges
of power and wisdom and goodness.
We trust our own standards;
we separate and categorize;
we mark the performance of others.
We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things.
We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes.
Gracious God, hidden and manifest,
transform our withered imaginations
until we yield the judgments we trust
to a love we cannot control. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

What then are we to say about these things?
If God is for us, who is against us?
Sisters and brothers, nothing we have done,
nothing we will ever do,
is enough to separate us from the love of God
made known in Jesus Christ.
Let us speak to each other and share these
words of assurance: "In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven." Thanks be to God.

* Gloria Patri (unison)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in
the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Enlightening God, the unfolding of
your Word gives light
and provides wisdom to all who
seek your truth. Open our minds and hearts by the presence of
your Holy Spirit, that the mystery of your heavenly realm is
made evident here on earth. Amen.

JESUS AT THE BEACH FESTIVAL

FREE
ADMISSION

July 29, 30 & 31
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
25th Annual - 2019

FREE
ADMISSION

PRAISE, WORSHIP, PRAYER,
HOLY SPIRIT MINISTRY
at the Ocean City, Maryland
Convention Center.
Daily from 10 AM - 1 PM

PRAISE MUSIC
on the Beach at
North Division Street in
Ocean City, Maryland.
Nightly from 7 PM - 10 PM

For more information:

JesusAtTheBeach.org or call 410-289-1296

Sponsored by Jesus At The Beach, Inc., and Son'Spot Ministries, Inc.

*** Doxology (unison)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly Hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading: Romans 8: 26-39 [NIV]

Elder Danny Mumford

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;

we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2nd Scripture Reading: Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52 [NIV]

Rev. Dan McKenty

31 He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 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.”

Flower Dedications:

Chancel Vase Flowers are given:

~ By Kent and Pat Mitchell as we celebrate our 38th wedding anniversary on July 30th. God has allowed us many joys together and has been by our sides during the storms of life. We are blessed.

~A basket of flowers is placed in memory of our great-grandfather (Juanita's grandfather), John A. Ackerman, a veteran of the US Army during the Spanish-American War, as he celebrated his 140th birthday on April 5, and the 61st anniversary of his eternal life in heaven on July 27th. ~ *David and Julie, Danny and Liz Mumford*

~ A basket of flowers is placed in loving memory of our daughter Caitlyn Lebo, who is celebrating her 27th birthday with our Lord and Savior on July 28th. Too soon taken but we know Caitlyn is safe in the arms of Jesus. ~ *Love, Mom and Dad*

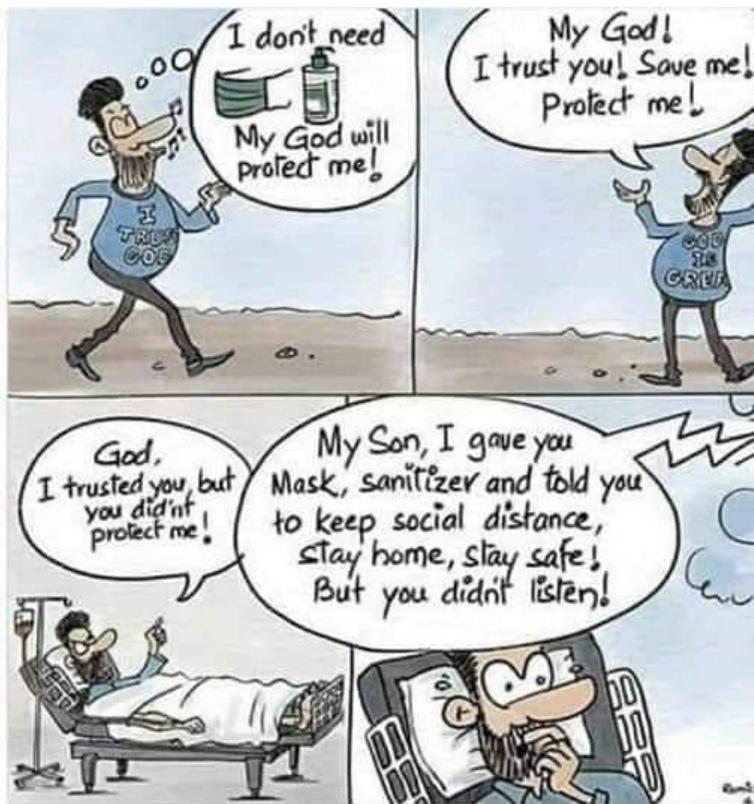
~ A basket of flowers is placed in honor of our parents, Woody and Shirley Warren, as they celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary on July 30th and in honor of our mom's birthday on July 30th. ~ *Love, Shane, Julie, Harrison, and Kelsey*

Chancel vases are open for August 2nd (2), August 23rd (1), and August 30th (2)

Birthdays:

David Haas (7/30), Shirley Warren (7/30), Kim Brenner (8/1), Karlah Fitzgerald (8/1)

Current Prayer Concerns:



33 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.”

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

47 “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. 48 When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets but threw the bad away. 49 This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous 50 and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

52 He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

Time with Children and Youth

Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: “Puzzling through the Parables”

Rev. Dan McKenty

* Hymn “Be Thou My Vision”

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art--
thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

3 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

***Affirmation of Faith** (unison)

**We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (responsive)

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying,
O Lord, attend to our cry, give ear to our prayer.
God who hears us, holds us, and helps us,
you are our eternal source of blessing.
You are our endless source of provision.
In your compassion, you see our need;
you heal our sickness and satisfy our hunger.
Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world,
and all in need:
O Lord, attend to our cry, **give ear to our prayer.**
For our sisters and brothers called by your name
throughout the world,
O Lord, attend to our cry, **give ear to our prayer.**
Bless your church and help us move forward
in mission with you.
O Lord, attend to our cry, **give ear to our prayer.**

For the healing and preservation of your creation
in heaven and on earth,
O Lord, attend to our cry, **give ear to our prayer.**
For the need of the nations—
wisdom for leaders, vindication and relief for the oppressed—
O Lord, attend to our cry, **give ear to our prayer.**
For those who are hungry, ill, vulnerable,
or seeking refuge from adversaries and injustice,
O Lord, attend to our cry, **give ear to our prayer.**
For all who need you, near and far,
especially those we name now, aloud and in our hearts, we pray for...
O Lord, attend to our cry, **give ear to our prayer.**
For the faithful who have preceded us and
in whose steps we follow,
O Lord, attend to our cry, **give ear to our prayer.**
Wondrously show us your steadfast love,
that we may behold your face in righteousness
and be satisfied, when we awake,
beholding your likeness;
through Christ our Lord we pray the prayer he taught us and we pray, **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.**

*** Hymn "Blest Be the Tie that Binds"**

1 Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

2 Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

3 When we are called to part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

Charge

Benediction

Postlude