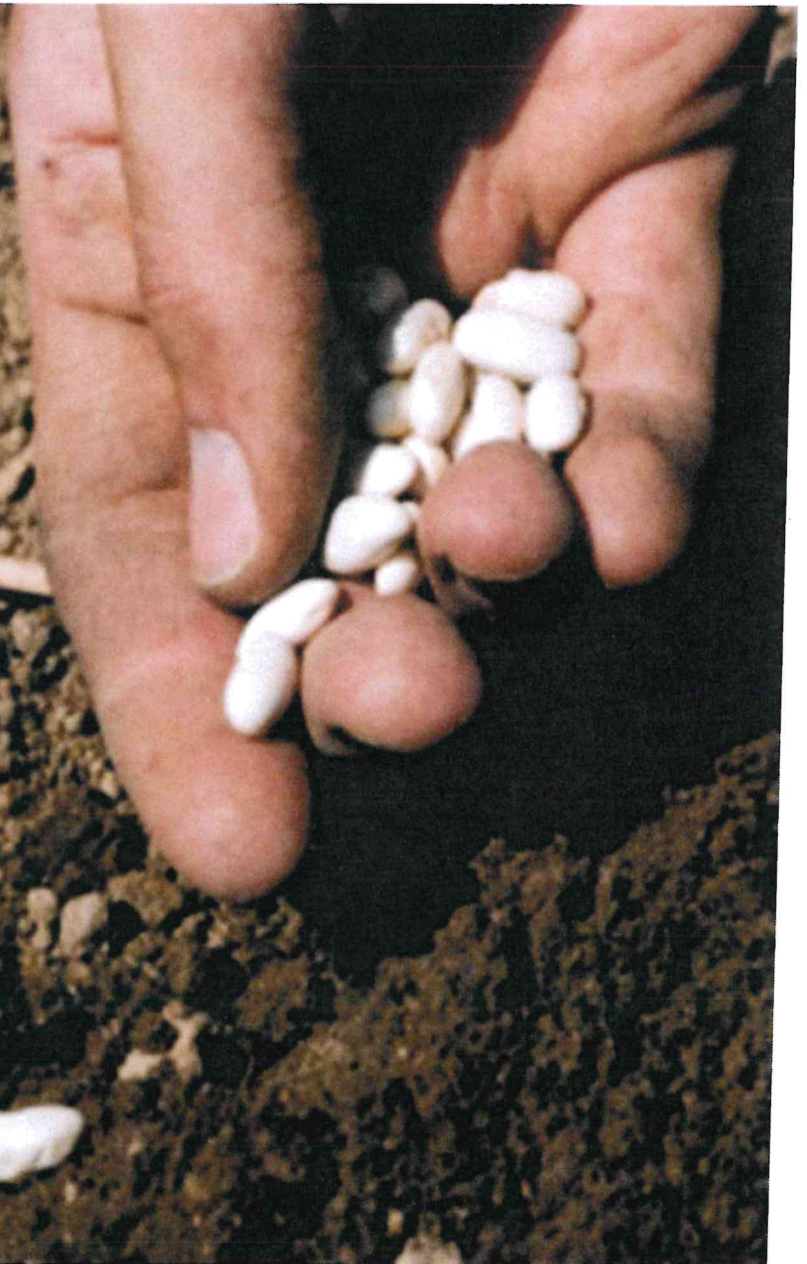


Parable of the Sower



Trinity United Church of Christ

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Where God is Still Speaking!

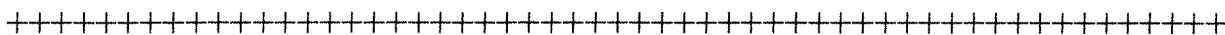
Trinity United Church of Christ

July 16, 2023

7th Sunday After Pentecost

8AM and 10:30AM Worship

Awakening joyful service guided by our still speaking God!



Congregational responses in bold print.

** Denotes standing as you are able.*

TIME OF SHARING

GREETING

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
You are welcome here.

We gather in the name of the Triune God,
The Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

PRELUDE – “Almighty God, Your Word is Cast” – *M. Sedio*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God, in the midst of our busy lives and demanding culture we seek cultivation.

In order to do your work in this world we need to take refuge
in your nurturing darkness, safety under your warm wing.

**We surrender to prayer and to rest, in your deep soil;
that as kernels of dry wheat we may crack open and unbind,
germinating uncountable sprouts and tendrils.**

Tended by you,
**may we yield a hundred fold and grow
with enough love to feed us all. Amen.**

*HYMN #12 “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

*PRAYER

**Loving God, you created life in us and all around us.
Open us to receive your gifts of your world and your word
that we may be not just hearers of the word, but doers also. Amen.**

***SUNG RESPONSE #84 “This is the Day” (v 1)**

This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our God has made; we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy Spirit, we confess that we have been caught up in the movements of this world, that cause us to seek our own gain, our own worldly success above the needs of others. We confess that we often judge others by our own lives, that others have not worked hard enough or lived the right way. Forgive us for our short-sightedness, our selfish smugness that asserts we are right and others are wrong. Forgive us for not living as if we are last of all and servant of all, as Christ has taught us. Lead us into the way of life, to seek the well-being of others, lifting up those who are in need, and loving our neighbors as ourselves. In the name of Christ, our Teacher, our Redeemer and Friend, we pray. Amen.

(Moment of Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

SPECIAL MUSIC

“When All God’s Singers Get Home”

by Luther Presley and Virgil Stamps

Mary Jane Hilbert, Soloist

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 55:10-13

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, ¹¹so 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. ¹²For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!" ¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the Sower. ¹⁹When 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. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet 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. ²²As 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. ²³But 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."

SERMON
Grace Winakor

HYMN #108 "Isaiah the Prophet"

PRAYER/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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH # 886
You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.**

**You have always been with us. You are God.
You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
Your love for us in Jesus Christ,
Who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now. You are God.
You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.**

A New Zealand Prayer Book

***CELEBRATION OF OUR GIFTS**

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #778**
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**
**Gracious God, filled by your generosity to us,
may we be generous to others.
Accept from us these gifts of word and money
as we commit our lives to you. Amen.**

***HYMN #318 “Almighty God, Your Word is Cast”**

***FINAL BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE – “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” – D. Cherwien**

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Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession:

“Liturgy created/adapted by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, rev-o-lution.org.” 2014.

All other worship elements from:

Written by the Rev. Ruth Garwood, ordained Minister in the United Church of Christ. Rev. Garwood is a certified leader of InterPlay, a system of forms in movement, story-telling and vocalizing that brings body and soul together, and brings communities together. She teaches suicide first aid via Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. Adapted for online use by Susan A. Blain.

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Hymn - *Isaiah the Prophet*. Words: Joy Patterson © 1982 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Co.)

Music: JUDAS AND MARY, Sydney Carter © 1964 Stainer and Bell (admin. Hope Publishing Co.)

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Today's Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young		Pastor
Grace Winakor		Student Intern
Jen Mickelson	8:00AM	Liturgists
Ann Harvey	10:30AM	
Jane Eiker	10:30AM	Organist
Sara Shank	8:00AM	Assistant Organist
John McKay	10:30AM	Senior Choir Director
Mark Luckenbaugh	8:00AM	Percussion
	8:00AM	Ushers
	10:30AM	
M. Jane Alleman and Ruby Warren		Greeters
Bonnie Smith		Acolyte
Georgia Hallabaugh, Kara Young, Luke Milhimes, Sue Churchill, Russell Bailey, Carl Barrick, Stacey Rushwald, George Steckert, Garrison Redding, Mike		Tech Team

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Isaac Watts, 1715; alt.

1. I sing the might-y power of God
that made the moun-tains rise,
That spread the flow-ing seas a-broad,
and built the loft-y skies.
I sing the wis-dom that or-dained
the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's com-mand,
and all the stars o-bey.

2. I sing the good-ness of our God
that filled the earth with food;
God formed the crea-tures with a word,
and then pro-nounced them good.
Oh, how your won-ders are dis-played,
wher-e'er I turn my eye:
If I sur-vey the ground I tread,
or gaze up-on the sky!

3. On earth there's not a plant or flower
but makes your glo-ry known.
The clouds a-rise and spread their showers
by or-der from your throne.
All life is but a gift from you
and ev-er in your care;
Wher-ev-er peo-ple gath-er, you,
O God, are pres-ent there.

Ps. 136:5–9; James 1:17

Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old

Joy F. Patterson, 1982; rev. 1993

1. I-sa-iah the proph-et has writ-ten of old
how God's new cre-a-tion shall come.
In-stead of the thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow;
the wolf shall lie down with the lamb, the lamb,
the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.

2. The moun-tains and hills shall break forth in-to song,
the peo-ples be led forth in peace;
The earth shall be filled with the knowl-edge of God
as the wa-ters cov-er the sea, the sea,
as the wa-ters cov-er the sea.

3. Yet na-tions still prey on the meek of the world,
and con-flict turns par-ent from child.
Your peo-ple de-spoil all the sweet-ness of earth;
the brier and the thorn tree grow wild, grow wild,
the brier and the thorn tree grow wild.

4. God, bring to fru-i-tion your will for the earth,
that no one shall hurt or de-stroy,
That wis-dom and jus-tice shall reign in the land
and your peo-ple shall go forth in joy, in joy,
your peo-ple shall go forth in joy.

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Isa. 11:6–9; 55:10–13

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

John Cawood, 1815; alt.

1. Al-might-y God, your Word is cast
like seed in-to the ground;
Now let the dew of heaven de-scend
and righ-teous fruits a-bound.

2. Let not the sly sa-tan-ic foe
this ho-ly seed re-move,
But give it root in ev-ery heart
to bring forth fruits of love.

3. Let not the world's de-ceit-ful cares
the ris-ing plant de-stroy,
But let it yield a hun-dred-fold
the fruits of peace and joy.

4. So when the pre-cious seed is sown,
your quick-ening grace be-stow,
That all whose souls the truth re-ceive
its sav-ing power may know.

Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23