



"Sunflower" by Olia Gozha

Christ Church UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Dan Stark, pastor
and Matthew Lawrenz, musician
www.uccmke.org

In this sixth week after the Pentecost event, we continue our sermon series, Unordinary Times, with an exploration of Genesis and Matthew's Gospel. This week's reading from Genesis is the story of how Jacob stole his brother Esau's birthright. The gospel lesson from Matthew is the Parable of the Sower. Jesus tells the crowds around him about God's kin-dom with a gardening illustration. This Sunday I want to take you into my flowerbed for some lessons about the parable of the sower and how gardening has helped give me new understanding of this scripture. During these UNordinary times, it is important that we have good soil in our lives so that we can take root and grow. Where are your roots? How do you bear fruit in the world?

Words of Welcome

A Song for Today

Trumpet Tune in C Major

**Gabrieli arr. Wolff
Musician, Matthew Lawrenz**

Opening Litany

UCC Worship Ways (Psalm 65)

Leader: God visits the earth and waters it

People: Greatly enriching the earth.

Leader: God waters the earth, softening it with showers,

People: And blessing the earth.

Leader: Along with the hills, the meadows, and the valleys,

People: Let us shout and sing together for joy!

Prayer for Today

Christine Longhurst



*"A Sower Went Out to Sow"
Romanian Mural*

O God,
We gather together in Your presence with expectation,
hungry for an encounter with You,
eager to hear Your Word.

Open our eyes and ears to the presence of Your Holy Spirit.
May the seeds of Your Word scattered among us this morning
fall on fertile soil.

May they take root in our hearts and lives,
and produce an abundant harvest
of good words and deeds.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ,
our teacher and our Lord.
Amen.

Old Testament

[Genesis 25:19-34](#)

This week's reading from the Genesis continues the story Abraham, Sarah, and their descendants. In this reading, Isaac, the son of Abraham and Sarah, married Rebekah. The couple were unable to conceive, so Isaac prayed to God. Rebekah gave birth to twins but had a challenging pregnancy. As the twins wrestled within her, God told her she had two nations in her womb and the elder would

serve the younger. As the twins came of age, Jacob, the younger son, tricked his brother Esau into selling him his birthright for a bowl of soup. Jacob receives the blessing intended for Esau.

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Ruth Garwood

Gracious God, your gifts to us: our lives, this world, and your word to us.
When we receive your word,
may we nurture it so that it grows roots within us.
May we not be distracted by the lure of wealth or the cares of the world.
Let us be good soil, receiving your word, understanding it, and acting upon it.

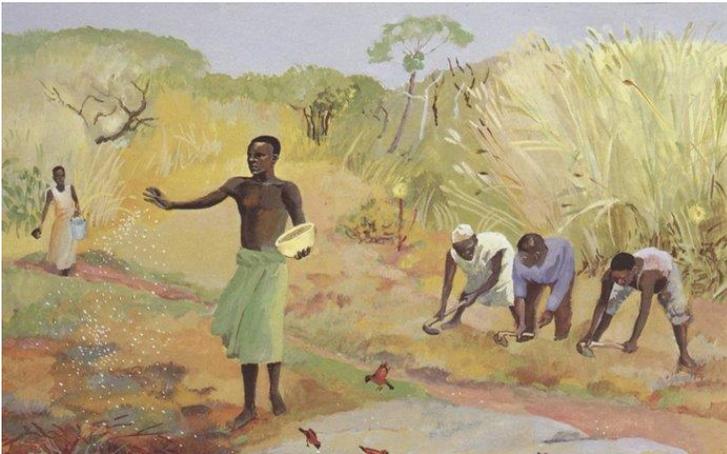
Assurance of Pardon

(based on Romans 8:1-11)

We claim what the apostle Paul teaches:
the Spirit of God dwells in you.
You are forgiven and free.
There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

New Testament

[Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23](#)



"The Parable of the Sower" by Jesus Mafa.

In this Gospel lesson from Matthew, Jesus teaches the crowds about the kin-dom of God through a parable about a seed-sower. The Sower sowed seeds on different kinds of soils. The seeds that fell on good soil grew and yielded good fruit. The seeds that fell onto other soil were eaten by birds, killed by the sun, or choked out by other plants. In a rare exception to most of Jesus' parables, he breaks it down for his audience to really drive his point home. Those who hear the word and understand it will bear good fruit.

Homily

UNordinary Times: Roots and Soil

Rev. Dan Stark

Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer

Passing the Peace

Although we cannot be physically close to one another at this time, we can be relationally close. This Sunday morning, you are invited to pass the peace with your church family and loved ones by taking a moment to text, write, call, or message the people in your church family to let them know you are thinking of them. May the peace of Christ be with you.

Closing Song

Allegretto in F Major

arr. Mendelssohn
Musician, Matthew Lawrenz

Sending

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If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email pastor@uccmke.org.
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You can make your offering to Christ Church through [PayPal](#) or by mailing a check to Christ
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