



**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.”**

Matthew 13:31-32

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  
July 26, 2020

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

arr. Hustad

**People: And do not rely on your own understanding.**

Leader: In all your ways acknowledge him,

**People: And God will make straight your paths.**

Leader: Honor the Lord and turn away from evil.

**People: It will be healing and refreshment for your body.**

Leader: Keep sound wisdom and prudence,

**People: And they shall be life for your soul.**

Leader: We worship the God who has claimed us for His own.

**All: We worship the God who calls us to a different way of life - a life set apart and committed to Jesus Christ, the Messiah! Let us recognize the folly of the world's wisdom, and claim the truth of God's wisdom!**

MUSIC

*Cantabile*  
Helen Redding

arr. Wilson

TO PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

God of patient love, your generous and loving heart is often a contrast to our chosen way. We are prone to make snap judgments, form quick opinions, and rely on flimsy prejudices. We look for differences that let us exclude, rather than differences that celebrate each other's uniqueness. We see the outside appearance, but miss the deep glance into the heart. We are quick to judge others, but reluctant to face our own faults, to look into our own hearts. Hold us, we pray, with tender care, and let your mercy wash over us. Forgive us when we cling to the world and ignore you, and give us eyes to see and ears to hear those things of your Kingdom. Through Christ we pray, Amen.

## SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

Leader: Persistently, patiently, lovingly, God pours out grace and mercy into our lives, healing our brokenness, forgiving our sin. Loved, we are sent to love; Forgiven, we are freed to forgive; Graced, we can offer our gifts to everyone we meet.  
Thanks be to God.

***ALL: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. In Christ, we are forgiven.***

## THE WORD

### A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*Rev. John White*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Rev. John White*

### MUSIC

*Into the Deep*  
Izzy Authurs

Chardon Lewis  
Jasmine Lewis

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Psalm 1*

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

*Matthew 13:31-33; 44-52*

*Rev. John White*

### SERMON

*The Kingdom is Like ..."*

*Rev. John White*

## RESPONSE

### MUSIC

*Waymaker*  
Izzy Authurs

Osinachi Okoro  
Michael W. Smith

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*From "A Brief Statement of Faith"*)

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word (continued)**

and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

**OFFERING**

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

**OFFERTORY**

*Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*  
Helen Redding

arr. Hustad

\*Doxology (Tune: 591)

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

\*Dedicatory Prayer

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

**SENDING**

**CHARGE**

*Rev. John White*

**BENEDICTION**

*Rev. John White*

**POSTLUDE**

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*  
Helen Redding

arr. Hustad

