

**Moosup Valley Congregational Church UCC**  
**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**July 12, 2020 ~ 10:30 A.M.**  
**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**MEDITATION:** “Discipleship is a wonderful adventure that invites us to share God’s word as a farmer plants her crops: with a clear vision of the world’s fickleness, a willingness to fail, hope, resilience, and the deep trust that by God’s grace at least some of our work will bear fruit.” –*Deborah Kapp*

**WELCOME**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE** (*Bob*)

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Pastor/Joan*)

One: When our thoughts are scattered, and feelings confused, and deeds undisciplined, how gracious of our God to help us order our lives.

**All: We give thanks to God for calling us to discipleship.**

One: When we sense an inner emptiness and meaning seems missing in action, how gracious of our God to open the path that leads toward true contentment.

**All: We give thanks to God for calling us into mission, into service in the name of Christ.**

One: When our attention wanders and our spirits lack focus, how gracious of our God to draw us near.

**All: We give thanks to God for calling us to worship. We seek to honor God in our gathering and through our serving.** –*Glen E. Rainsley*

**INVOCATION** (*Joan*)

**We gather with grateful hearts in this sacred space, O God. Awaken us to hear your call for our lives and help us listen with our hearts as well as our minds. Instill in us a desire to follow you with determination and purpose through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**HYMN: “God Reigns o’er All the Earth”** (*Martha will play while we mute and sing.*)

*God reigns o’er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low,  
The farms and towns in golds and browns God’s grace and beauty show.  
God reigns o’er all the earth! Stone banks and spreading plains,  
in rainbow hues – reds, yellows, blues – of streams and country lanes.*

*God reigns o’er human life! Through youth and aging years,  
in death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.  
God reigns o’er human life! Our inspiration still,  
Through all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God’s reigning will.*

*God reigns o'er time and space! In history's bygone days,  
Christ's faithful folk in reverence spoke to bring God earnest praise.  
God reigns o'er time and space! O'er galaxy and sun,  
through timeless years the cosmos hears the heavenly music run.*

*God reigns! Emmanuel! God with us every day,  
in all our past and to the last, our comfort and our stay.  
God reigns! Emmanuel! Let praise to Christ be sung!  
God's presence here makes all things dear. Let joyful bells be rung!*

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Laurie)*

**Merciful Savior, we confess that in the heat of the moment, we allow our tempers, our impatience and our selfishness to overcome the heart of goodness and compassion you have created within us. We respond in ways that hurt one another and do not honor you. We confess that, though we long to have the mind of Christ and to respond in all situations as he has modeled for us, we sometimes fail. We are short-sighted, forgetful and fearful. We ask for your forgiveness, Lord. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and the love of all humankind. Amen. –David Slater**

*(A moment of silent prayer.)*

Pastor: Friends, we have this assurance that Jesus Christ came into the world to forgive sinners. Hear the good news and rejoice. You are forgiven! Hallelujah! Amen.

**SUNG RESPONSE: “Take My Life, God, Let It Be” #448 (NCH)**

***Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.  
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.***

### **GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

*(Priscilla)* That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying:

*(Tracey)* “Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up.

*(Laila)* Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away.

*(Carl)* Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

*(Pat)* Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> Let anyone with ears<sup>[a]</sup> listen!”

*(Priscilla)* “Hear then the parable of the sower.

*(Tracey)* When 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.

*(Laila)* As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup> yet 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.

*(Carl)* As 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.

*(Pat)* But 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.”

**SPECIAL MUSIC: “Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”** *(Lee Goodyear)*

**RESPONSE:**      **For the Word of God in scripture,** *(Joan)*  
                         **For the Word of God within us,** *(Bob)*  
                         **For the Word of God among us,** *(Laurie)*  
                         **Thanks be to God.** *(Karen)*

**REFLECTION: “Sowing the Seeds of Abundance”**

**HYMN: “I Love to Tell the Story”**

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus’ radiant glory, of Jesus’ endless love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know it’s true;  
It satisfies my longing as nothing else can do.  
**I love to tell the story; and when I am in glory  
I’ll tell the old, old story of Jesus’ endless love.***

*I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems  
Than all the golden visions of all our golden dreams.  
I love to tell the story, I tell it now to you  
because I want to share it, because I know it’s true. **Refrain***

*I love to tell the story; it’s pleasant to repeat  
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
The message of salvation from God’s own holy Word. **Refrain***

*I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.  
And when I sing in glory, I know the new, new song  
will be the old, old story that I have loved so long. Refrain*

**JOYS & CONCERNS** (*God, in your love, hear our prayer.*)

**RINGING OF THE SINGING BOWL**

**SILENT PRAYER**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*Laurie*)

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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.**

**RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION**

Pastor: My friends, go forth from this place nourished by the gifts of God's love through Christ our Lord.

**People: So loved and so nourished, may we love and nurture others ...** (*Laila*)

**ALL: SO THAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD MAY COME. AMEN.** (*Joan*)

**SUNG BENEDICTION: "Sent Forth"**

*Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.*

*The service is ended, O now be extended  
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.*

*The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.*

*God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us  
to work for God's realm and to answer the call.*

**PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**