



**South  
Mecklenburg  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

A Service of Worship  
Third Sunday after Pentecost  
Class of 2020 Confirmation Sunday  
June 13, 2021, 10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Live Streamed

**WE GATHER**

**PRELUDE** *Partita on "Italian Hymn"* Alfred V. Fedak

**WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH** Dr. Matthew S. Brown

**INTROIT**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Diane Giannola

**One:** The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of seeds on earth;

**Many:** **It grows up and becomes the greatest of shrubs, and the birds of the air make nests in its shade.**

**One:** Give thanks to God, whose promised reign is coming.

**Many:** **Thanks be to God!**

**\*HYMN** *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* No. 804

1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!  
 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,  
 3 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as ye go,  
 4 At last the march shall end; the wea - ried ones shall rest;  
 5 Then on, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King,  
 send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.  
 from youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:  
 the pil - grims find their home at last, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.  
 Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

*Refrain*

Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!  
 Re - joice! Re - joice!

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

Rev. Giannola

Holy God, the parable of the mustard seed teaches us that a little faith can produce great work in your kingdom. Yet we are too timid to bear the fruit of your righteousness, for we walk by sight and not by faith. Forgive us Lord; we do not uphold the poor or the oppressed. We do not advocate for the powerless or the voiceless. We do not sacrifice ourselves for the needs of our neighbors. Renew us with the love of Christ so that we live no longer for ourselves, but for Christ who became the seed of your righteousness in us. (silence)

One: Trusting your mercy, we lift these prayers to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE**

Rev. Giannola

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

*Gloria Patri*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen. Amen.*

## WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE WORD

### CHURCH FAMILY MOMENT

Rebecca Guzman

1. Plant a seed! What do you know about planting a seed? Are you going to plant it in the ground or in a cup or pot? If you don't have a seed to plant, put a bean inside of a plastic bag with a damp paper towel and tape it to a window. What happens after a few days?
2. Show with your body what it is like to be a tiny round seed. What does it look like when a tiny green shoot sticks up through the ground? Then, show what the plant looks like when it gets bigger and sways in the breeze. What does it feel like when rain comes down on the leaves and the flowers? What would the seed look like if it grew into a great big tree with long branches stretching out? How would it look if birds came and sat on the branches – and made little nests that baby birds could sit in?
3. Watch this video that shows the story for today:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKpxQjWV2RA>
4. Journal, using these reflection questions:
  - Why do we think Jesus talked about seeds?
  - What does a seed need to grow up and become food?
  - How are we like seeds?
  - How are we NOT like seeds?
  - If you were having feelings of not being very important or people made fun of you, how might verses 31 and 32 make you feel?

*Children four years old through third grade may recess to the back of the sanctuary, joining Rebecca for Children's Worship. The children will return to join their families at the hymn following the Sermon.*

### ANTHEM

*Hymn of Promise*  
Chancel Choir

arr. Tom Fettke

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.  
There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.  
In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.  
There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.*

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Dr. Brown

### READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 55: 10-11

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,

so 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.

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Mark 4: 26-34

He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Theology of Agronomy

Dr. Brown

\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

**The Apostles' Creed**

Rev. Giannola

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Giannola

... (*unison*) **"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.**

\*DOXOLOGY

***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.***

**SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION**

MEANING OF CONFIRMATION

Rebecca Guzman

\*HYMN

***God of the Fertile Fields*** (verses 1, 2)

No. 714

1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of  
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in  
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that  
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your  
 trust from you all that you give; help us in  
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our  
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,  
 love to share, teach us like you to care  
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bus - ed,  
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.  
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.  
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.  
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2020**

Xander Case, Katie Conerly, Collin Cushman, Charlotte Eckert, Cameron Fraser,  
 Addison Hicks, Brooke Hicks, Alex Hooper, Clark Hurlburt, Owen Hurlburt, Hank  
 Jacobus, Logan Johnson, Avery Loftus, Abigail Mitchell, Grant Powell, Sara Rice,  
 Caroline Ronek, Harrison Scott, Kate Smith, and Sara Tezzi

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Rev. Giannola

Recognizing that all are sinners, dependent on the mercy of God, do you profess your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord of all and Savior of sinners, and do you confess your dependence upon Christ for your salvation? Do you?

Do you now resolve and promise, depending on the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will seek to live as a follower of Christ?

Do you declare your intention to participate actively and responsibly in the worship and mission of the church?

QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Meghan Bartholomew

\*HYMN

*God of the Fertile Fields* (verses 3, 4)

No. 714

PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION AND  
LAYING ON OF HANDS

Dr. Brown

WELCOME TO DISCIPLESHIP

Meghan Bartholomew

One: By publicly professing their faith, the students of the Confirmation Class of 2020 have expressed their intention to continue in the covenant God made with them in their baptism. Let us welcome them as they join with us in the worship and mission of the church.

All: **With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him.**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Dr. Brown

POSTLUDE

*Italian Hymn*

arr. Albert L. Travis

*Having been nurtured in the Word of the Lord, let us respond by offering ourselves to God furthering God's ministry in this community and in the world. Please prayerfully consider placing your offering in the offering boxes as you leave, texting SMPC to 73256, or giving online at:*

<https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=138679>.

## WORSHIP SERVICE NOTES

We light a candle in worship this morning celebrating the birth of Charlotte Elizabeth Gwyn on May 5. Congratulations to parents Dann and Kayleen Gwyn and big brother Landon!

Non-vaccinated individuals, including children 5 and up, are asked to wear a mask while indoors.

### Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist

Rev. Diane Giannola, Parish Associate

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Meghan Bartholomew, Clerk of Session

Chancel Choir

A/V Teams: Kari Case and Xander Case; Brad Alford and Joanna Alford

### Worship Teams:

Ushers: Krista & Charles Casey, Rich Giannola, Curtis Guy, Judy Jones, Michael Zagora

Elder/Deacon of the Day: Denise Wilcox

Welcome Team: Jane Brookshire, Amy & Aarik Eberhardt, Aaron Eberhardt

## Congregational Notes (as of June 9, 2021)

### Remember in Prayer

- All those in our congregation and community managing COVID-19.
- Our church, our community, our country, and the world as we face this world-wide pandemic.

- Our mission partners in Bayonnais, Haiti.

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request: [prayer@SMPChome.org](mailto:prayer@SMPChome.org).

### **2020 Confirmands and Mentors**

Xander Case	Jeff Brockman
Katie Conerly	Shelby Ullman
Collin Cushman	Frank Graham
Charlotte Eckert	Jen Smith
Cameron Fraser	Mandy Godbey
Addison Hicks	Karen Williams
Brooke Hicks	Mary Elledge
Alex Hooper	Charlie Metzler
Clark Hurlburt	Chuck Powell
Owen Hurlburt	Guy Gosnell
Hank Jacobus	Zach Bowyer
Logan Johnson	Rob Hope
Avery Loftus	Susan Hicks
Abigail Mitchell	Lori Loftus
Grant Powell	Bob Cushman
Sara Rice	Amy Matthews
Caroline Ronek	Amy Zagora
Harrison Scott	Michael Zagora
Kate Smith	Lori Schellin
Sara Tezzi	Pam Mobley

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