

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATION TO OFFERING

PRELUDE *Excerpt from Saint Saens's Piano Concerto No. 2*
Nick Hull, piano

CENTERING WORDS AND OPENING PRAYER Cindi Ritter
Adapted from Ministry Matters.com

We are like mustard seeds. God has planted wonders in us that are hidden by our humanity. They are ready to be uncovered and to grow! Now, I know that doesn't sound like much. Mustard seeds are small, and easily thrown to the ground and forgotten about. Within each of us are wondrous gifts and talents that we simply haven't found yet. We have to be patient and wait. God will reveal those gifts and we will discover the many ways in which we are called to serve. We may be or have just what someone needs. Just wait and be ready!

As we wait, and prepare for worship, may we seek after God. May we seek the patience and grace to wait for God to work within us.

There is something else small in our lives. We are like yeast! There are even more surprises in store waiting to be set forth. Yeast is a mysterious thing, using sugar and sweetness to help it grow. Why in the world would God call us yeast? We are full of energy and joy! We may be those who influence people, who invite them to open their hearts to God. One thing is for sure, we will transform people's lives in God's name.

As we wait, and prepare for worship, may we find the patience and grace to inspire us more to work for God.

All this is to say that we are treasures of great value. Praise be to God for the wonders that are hidden within us, yet to be discovered! The treasure that we are in the eyes of God is only the beginning of things in our lives. Our deep and abiding faith will lead others to new lives of hope and courage.

As we gather for worship this day, may we discover who God calls us to be. We come offering our praise and our prayers so that all may come to know God as redeemer and sustainer and friend.

Lord of mustard seeds and yeast, we come to you this day, seeking your word and will for us. Make us people who care deeply about the well-being of others. Give us courage to be yeast for the rising of hope and peace throughout the world. Open our hearts to your redeeming love, for we ask this in Christ's name. Amen.

SONG *Fill My Cup, Lord* W3093

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Cathy Christman

LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Cathy Christman
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.

SCRIPTURE READING Chuck Ritter

Matthew 13:31-33 Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 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."

He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."

Matthew 13:44-52 Parables of the Hidden Treasure, the Pearl, and the Net

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked.

"Yes," they replied.

He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."

(continued on back page)

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT I – **Congregation respond in BOLD**

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Through the sacrament of Baptism
we are initiated into Christ's holy church.

We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and
given new birth through water and the Spirit.

All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Through confirmation, and through the reaffirmation of our
faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism,
acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our
commitment to Christ's holy church.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

I present Ruth Lawton to reaffirm her faith.

I present Pam and Russ Dunkel who come to this congregation
from another UMC.

I present Richard and Nancy Meyer who come to this
congregation from another UMC

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you renounce the
spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this
world, and repent of your sin? I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist
evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present
themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust
in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union
with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages,
nations, and races?

I do.

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful
members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's
representatives in the world?

I will.

Will you who sponsor these candidates support and encourage
them in their Christian life?

I will.

Do you, as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your
rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and
include these persons now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live
according to the example of Christ. We will surround these
persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they
grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their
service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true
disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.**

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as
contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and
earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
[who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father.
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.]**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, [the holy catholic* church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection
of the body, and the life everlasting.]**

Reaffirmation of Faith

Ruth, the Holy Spirit work within you,
that having been born through water and the Spirit,
you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

All respond:

Amen.

RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

As members of Christ's universal church,
will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church,
and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?
I will.

RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION

As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate
in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and
your service?

I will.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God,
I commend these persons to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase their faith,
confirm their hope, and perfect them in love,

The congregation responds:

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in Christian love.
As members together with you
in the body of Christ
and in this congregation
of The United Methodist Church,
we renew our covenant
faithfully to participate
in the ministries of the church
by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, and our service,
that in everything God may be glorified
through Jesus Christ.**

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,
establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy
Spirit
that you may live in grace and peace.