



"In the bulb there is a flower, in the  
seed an apple tree...something God  
alone can see."

"HYMN OF PROMISE", NATALIE SLEETH, 1986

**WHITNEY**  
**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Rev. Christina Thompson – Pastor**

July 19, 2020

**Welcome**

*Rev. Christina Thompson*

**Lighting our candles**

**Call to Worship** based on Psalm 65 *Lory and Noa Neser*

Leader: Come and worship,  
everyone on earth,  
everywhere the sun shines,  
**All: let's praise God together!**

Leader: For listening when we call,  
answering our prayers,  
forgiving our mistakes,  
and providing what we need:  
**All: let's praise God together!**

Leader: Come and worship,  
everyone on earth,  
everywhere the sun shines,  
**All: let's praise God together!**

**Opening Prayer** based on Matthew 13:1-9

**Opening Hymn** Step by Step *W&S 3004*

**Scripture** Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**Sermon** The Good Sower *Rev. Christina Thompson*

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer** *Rev. Dewey Knowles*

**Offering**

## **Closing Song**

Hymn of Promise

*UMH 707*

## **Sending Forth**

## **Passing the Peace**

### **Notes:**

## **Opening Prayer**

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.

### **Scripture:**

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

## **The Parable of the Sower**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. 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. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

## **The Parable of the Sower Explained**

'Hear then the parable of the sower. 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. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 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. 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. 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.'

### **Pastoral Prayer:**

Author of life, living word, holy breath, we have stumbled through the week and we grope our way back to this place. Illumine the steps before us and plough our hearts with your living word until we who are broken become fertile with your living word. Amen.

### **Offertory Prayer:**

Giver of life, we do not want the cares of the world and the lure of wealth to choke your word among us. As the sower casts seeds abundantly, hopefully, so we long to participate in your seeding of the world. Receive our gifts as tokens of our lives. Send your cultivating spirit to work among us as we yield and grow in grace. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### **Final Words:**

Siblings in Christ know that God our sower is sowing abundant seeds in your life. Take the extra seeds God gives you and sow them wherever you go, not judging the soil on which you stand, for God brings forth fruit from unexpected places.

The next two weeks we will be traveling for worship in order to give Becky, our worship guru, two weeks to vacation and to give the worship team time to get ahead. (Note: those of you who receive mailings will receive bulletins for each of these, as well as a summary of the sermon in each.)

So next week, I invite you to join us as we worship with Meridian UMC and Rev. John Mars. He will be preaching on --- guess what--- the parable of the sower! But he goes a very different way than I did and I believe you will be blessed by his words.

### **Song Texts:**

#### **Step by Step**

Oh God, You are my God  
And I will ever praise you  
Oh God, You are my God  
And I will ever praise you  
I will seek You in the morning  
And I will learn to walk in Your ways  
And step by step You'll lead me  
And I will follow You all of my days.

Oh God, You are my God  
And I will ever praise You  
Oh God, You are my God  
And I will ever praise You  
I will seek You in the morning  
And I will learn to walk in Your ways  
And I will follow You all of my days

And I will follow You all of my days  
And I will follow You all of my days

And step by step You'll lead me  
And I will follow You all of my days.

Oh God, You are my God  
And I will ever praise You.

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**#3004 – Step by Step**

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**Hymn of Promise**

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.

**#707 – Hymn of Promise**

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**Credits**

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer by Christine Longhurst,  
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At 9:45 am, on your phone, dial:

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Someone will talk to you and ask for the meeting ID.

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