

July 12, 2020
Center Harbor Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
6th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship Materials

Call to Worship

Psalm 119:108

Incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end

For The Beauty Of The Earth

Chalice Hymnal # 56 (lyrics: Pierpoint, 1864)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vttgd0MdzE>

*Sing boldly...or hum as you read these lyrics:

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise!

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise!

Pray silently or aloud, if you wish:

God of all Creation; I thank you for the beauty of the earth! Every leaf, every grain of sand, every budding flower and every tree, mighty and strong, sings of your love. Each creature reveals your unique artistry! The sun and stars admire your greatness.

You have woven together a natural world, full of surprises for us to admire and enjoy, and mysteries for us to solve. You have made us stewards of this marvelous earth! Thank you for your confidence in us. May we live up to your challenge to care for this marvelous earth!
Amen.

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV

Read Scripture;

Matthew 13: 1-9 RSV

1. That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat there; and the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow, 4. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. 5. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they had not much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, 6. but when the sun rose they were scorched; and since they had no root they withered away. 7. Other seeds fell upon thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8. Other seeds fell upon good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9. He who has ears, let him hear."

Matthew 13: 18-23

18. Hear then the parable of the sower. 19. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in his heart; this is what was sown along the path. 20. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21. yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation and persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. 22. As for what was sown among thorns, this is he who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the delight in riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. 23. As for what was sown on good soil, this is he who hears the word and understands it; he indeed bears fruit, and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Message:

Some things to think about.... As you read this parable, does it make you think of some folks you know, or may have met casually? Are they on the path of the road where they can be misled or distracted by others, or their time is 'gobbled up' by meaningless things because they have no depth? Or, are they followers for a short time, and soon are withered away from the Word ?

Where can you find yourself? Can you see yourself on the good soil ... bearing fruit? Our congregation nurtures each other. We hear the Word, do our best to care for each other in many ways, and follow God's path, being strong in our faith. There may be times when we falter, but we are rooted in His message! Let anyone with ears, listen.

Think on these thoughts. Be strong in your faith.

Trust and love each other. Share the Love!

Be kind to all you encounter and let them see His Spirit in YOU!

Pray together:

As our prayers wash over the sandy shore, our prayers come to you, oh Lord! We ask for your comfort for those hurting from discrimination of any kind. Sing to us through your birds, and reassure us that All your people matter! Heal our hearts from pain, both physical and emotional. Heal and comfort us, Lord. Be with us in our silent prayers...

(add your personal prayers here)

Lift our spirits, God; as we care for all people of your flock. For as we do for the least of these, we do it for you. Amen

Be Still My Soul

Chalice Hymnal #566 (Finlandia)
(Lyrics: vonSchlegel, 1752)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_d54TFGFT4

Be still, my soul: for God is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Trust in your God, your savior and your guide.
Who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a peaceful end.

Be still my soul: for God will undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still my soul: the waves and winds still know
the voice that calmed them in this world below.

Lord's Prayer

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 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 God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly hosts:
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Voluntary on Old 100th

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AuXBgY4K7LA>

Benediction

All good things around us,
Are sent from up above.
So thank the Lord,
Oh thank the Lord,
For ALL HIS LOVE



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nt2aU6ItXt0>