

## June 21- Written Service

**Praise Team-** Katie Kirby, Jeremy Russell, Robin and Jeremiah Thompson, Merlin Thompson, Collen Turner

**Special Music:** Tegan Lindgren

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome**

### **Call to Worship**

Leader: Jesus asks, "What is the kingdom of God like?"

All: It is like a tiny mustard seed planted in a garden.

Leader: Though it is the smallest of all seeds, it grows into a mighty tree.

All: Its branches reach wide, offering shelter and rest to all.

Leader: The kingdom of God grows quietly, yet its impact transforms the world.

All: Let us come and worship the God of all growth and grace.

### **Song: We Bow Down**

You are Lord of creation and Lord of my life,

Lord of the land and the sea.

You were Lord of the heaven before there was time,

And Lord of all lords You will be!

We bow down and we worship You, Lord.

We bow down and we worship You, Lord.

We bow down and we worship You, Lord.

Lord of all lords You will be!

You are King of creation and King of my life,

King of the land of the sea.

You were King of the heaven before there was time,

And King of all kings You will be!

We bow down and we crown You the King.

We bow down and we crown You the King.

We bow down and we crown You the King.

King of all Kings You will be, You will be!

### **Prayer**

**Song: By Faith**

By faith we see the hand of God  
In the light of creation's grand design,  
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness,  
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth  
With the power of His promise in their hearts,  
Of a holy city built by God's own hand,  
A place where peace and justice reign.

We will stand as children of the promise,  
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.  
Till the race is finished and the work is done,  
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the prophets saw a day  
When the longed-for Messiah would appear  
With the power to break the chains of sin and death  
And rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go  
In the power of the Spirit to the lost  
To deliver captives and to preach good news  
In every corner of the earth.

We will stand as children of the promise;  
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.  
Till the race is finished and the work is done,  
We'll walk by faith and not by faith.

By faith this mountain shall be moved  
And the power of the gospel shall prevail,  
For we know in Christ all things are possible  
For all who call upon His name.

We will stand as children of the promise;  
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.  
Till the race is finished and the work is done,  
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

## **Announcements**

**Special music: Still Waters sung by Tegan Lindgren**

## **Congregational Prayer**

### **Song: #680- All the Way My Savior Leads Me**

All the way my Savior leads me;  
What have I to ask beside?  
Can I doubt His tender mercy,  
Who thro' life has been my Guide?

Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,  
Here by faith in Him to dwell!  
For I know what-e'er befall me,

Jesus doeth all things well;  
For I know what'e'er befall me,  
Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Savior leads me,  
Cheers each winding path I tread,  
Gives me grace for every trial,  
Feeds me with the living bread.

Tho' my weary steps may falter,  
And my soul a-thirst may be,  
Gushing from the Rock before me,

Lo! a spring of joy I see;  
Gushing from the Rock before me,  
Lo! a spring of joy I see.

All the way my Savior leads me;  
O the fullness of His love!  
Perfect rest to me is promised  
In my Father's house above.

When my spirit, clothed, immortal,  
Wings its flight to realms of day,  
This my song thro' endless ages:

"Jesus led me all the way."

This my song thro' endless ages:

"Jesus led me all the way."

### **Offering/Offertory**

**Offering Song: Glorify Thy Name**

**Offering Prayer**

### **Children's Message**

#### **Scripture: Luke 13: 18-21**

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to?"

<sup>19</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches."

<sup>20</sup> Again he asked, "What shall I compare the kingdom of God to?"

<sup>21</sup> It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."

### **Message**

- Intro-memories of Dad
  - I was still teaching and Sarah got a flat tire outside of Sioux Center
    - Somehow Dad was available (maybe driving feed truck in the area that day) and went and changed the tire
    - That same week, he'd done the same for 2 of my 3 sisters
  - We used to keep our cars in a large farm shed, with the sliding door on tracks that would ice up in a winter storm
    - He'd wake up early to break the door loose for mom
    - If the plow hadn't been by (since we lived on the edge of O'Brien county) he'd get out the tractor and open the road so she could go to work
  - When he'd hire help, he'd often ask what they were used to getting paid and go a little higher
  - When he and I would be working on something, we'd always stop at noon for lunch and watch MASH during the hot part of the day before heading back out (couldn't possibly go out before it was done at 1:00)
  - Didn't always get much of a tax return
    - But one year when he got more than expected, he spent that tax return on a small 4-wheeler so the grandkids could zip around the farm
  - Today as I remember my father on Father's Day, it's the little things that stand out to me
    - Our passage today emphasizes the importance of little things as well
- Scripture-Luke 13:18-21

- If you've been around church for a while, you've probably heard these descriptions of the kingdom of heaven before.
  - You've probably heard about how God can take little things and make them bigger
  - A little yeast can make an incredible impact on a great deal of flour
    - Imagine 60 lbs of flour
    - 12 of the 5 lb bags we all have in our cupboards
  - How a tiny seed grows into a huge tree
  - That message of the value of doing the little things is definitely part of what Jesus is teaching people here
  - But it's only a part
- Jesus is also pointing out something that gets lost in the translation here
  - You plant a mustard seed and it becomes a bush
    - The word for this is sinapi
    - a mustard seed will produce a bush or a shrub
  - but a mustard seed does not produce a tree
  - mustard doesn't grow on trees and the word for tree here isn't sinapi, it's dendron
    - it's like planting soybeans and having an oak tree grow up instead
  - so what is Jesus trying to say?
    - The tree with birds living in its branches is an OT image
    - Ezekiel 17 and 31
    - It symbolizes an empire that stretches over a wide area and rules over many groups of people
- That was the expectation for Jesus as Messiah
  - That's the kingdom everyone was waiting for
  - They wanted the tree
  - They wanted Jesus to plant the tree
  - To overthrow Rome, to rule the surrounding nations, to make Israel the regional superpower
- But Jesus kept doing these little things in these out of the way places
  - Having supper with a short tax collector
  - Putting mud in a blind guy's eyes
  - Teaching in the countryside
  - He didn't once attack the Romans or denounce Caesar
- With the benefit of hindsight, we can see that thousands of years later, the small things of God have outlasted Rome and established the people of God in a way that extends beyond earthly definitions of power
  - Those mustard seed things Jesus kept doing turned into something else
    - They became the tree that everyone was hoping for
    - God's way of doing things to make what was little become great built a kingdom that spread throughout the world and has impacted more of human history than anything before or since

- But not because Jesus went around trying to plant a tree and build an earthly empire
- Not only did Jesus do the little things Himself, He told His followers about how important the little things were
  - Matthew 25:31+ (could extend passage further if you want the negative example as well)
  - <sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.
    - <sup>34</sup> “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> *For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.*’
    - <sup>37</sup> “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’
    - <sup>40</sup> “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, *whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*’
  - Not earth shattering, newsworthy stuff
    - But this is the difference between the sheep and the goats, between those who enter the kingdom and those who don’t
      - Not because of the deeds themselves, but because these little things show the heart
      - Do we care for those others ignore or purposely shun?
      - Do we care about the daily necessities of others?
- What is the lesson for us today?
  - Are you a mustard seed?
    - Do you ever feel small and insignificant, like you have nothing to offer?
    - Feel encouraged, kingdom comes through people like you
  - Has God been growing in you, are you becoming a tree?
    - Have you seen God do amazing things in you and through you?
    - Remember that it is God who makes you grow
    - That God is at work in you to provide shelter to all those who flock to you
  - As a church and as individuals, how do we try to plant trees?
    - How do we keep looking for the next big thing? How do we keep elevating whatever is bigger, flashier, better?
    - Take the pressure off, don’t worry about planting a tree, plant a seed and let the Spirit work

- What does it look like to do the small things for God?
- This week, this afternoon, go out and do the little things
  - Do something small for God and see how He blesses it and grows it
- Lead in to communion
  - Jesus gathers around the table with His disciples
  - It's set with bread and wine (other Passover staples as well)
  - Everyday food
  - They've had this stuff around this Passover table before
  - But it becomes something more, something greater

### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

#### **Song: #139- Great is Thy Faithfulness (vs. 1,3)**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father.  
 There is no shadow of turning with Thee.  
 Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not,  
 As Thou hast been Thou forever shall be.

Great is Thy faithfulness.  
 Great is Thy faithfulness.  
 Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
 All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.  
 Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter, springtime and harvest,  
 Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
 Join with all nature in manifold witness,  
 To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is Thy faithfulness.  
 Great is Thy faithfulness.  
 Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
 All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.  
 Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
 Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
 Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
 Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

Great is Thy faithfulness.

Great is Thy faithfulness.  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

### **Benediction**

### **Postlude**