

Welcome to the

Setauket Presbyterian Church

of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Order of Worship

July 12, 2026

❖ *please rise in body or in spirit; unison prayers are in bold.*

Kindly sign the friendship pad near you and pass it down the pew!

GATHERING MUSIC

Pavan in G

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

INTROIT

Plein Chant

CALL TO WORSHIP

Your grace is a lamp for our hearts, O God.

Light our way through the shadows of this world.

When we struggle with questions and doubts,

Tell us your stories of hope and grace.

When we are about to wander off into the wilderness,

Show us the paths to your peace and joy.

OPENING PRAYER

❖ **HYMN no. 4** *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* (verses 1, 2, 3)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we are quick to say, "We didn't know." "We didn't mean to." But we have not tended the soil of our lives. We let it stay shallow and rocky by not learning what you would have us learn. We let it become riddled with thorns by succumbing to our own prejudices. Life-giving God, help us to tend our soil. Open us to being challenged, enable us to learn, so that your word will take root and bear good fruit in our lives.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

There is no condemnation for us: God has forgiven us that we might live according to the Spirit. **The Spirit of God dwells within us. Thanks be to God!**

SUNG RESPONSE no. 584 *Gloria*

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.** *Please stand as able and greet those around you by sharing the peace of Christ.*

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, may the scripture remind us of your great love for us, and may we be refreshed by your life-giving word. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 55:10–13

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. For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 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 a 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. If you have ears, hear!"

"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 this age 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."

SERMON

Rev. Candace Whitman

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

❖ **HYMN no. 458** *Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet*

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Prelude

Johann Ludwig Krebs

❖ **DOXOLOGY no. 609**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures high and low: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

❖ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of unending gifts, we praise you for your abundant goodness. As you are generous, we want to be generous too. May the gifts we bring extend your generosity into the world, so that all people may be made whole by your goodness and grace. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

❖HYMN no. 361 *O Christ, The Great Foundation (verses 1, 3, 4)*

❖ CHARGE and BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Thy Word

Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith
Arr. Mark Hayes

Members, please remain seated for the congregational meeting that will take place immediately following the service.

Today's liturgy is drawn from the PCUSA Book of Common Worship, The PCUSA Call to Worship Journal online, and the writings of the Rev. Thom Shuman.

Cover Art: Vincent van Gogh, 1853-1890. The Sower III (version 2), 1888, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58327> [retrieved July 6, 2026]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vincent_van_Gogh_-_The_sower_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg

Note: A short essay on the artistic and spiritual meaning of this artwork is available from *The Visual Commentary on Scripture*, <https://thevcs.org/parable-sower/there-went-out-sower-sow>.
