

# 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## Prelude

## Welcome & Announcements

### WE GATHER BEFORE GOD

#### Call to Worship

The season of Pentecost! Let us open our hearts to the Holy Spirit and allow him to work in us, to transform us into people God created us to be. May the Holy Spirit energize you and inspire you to walk courageously in God's way.

**HYMN** VU 703 *In the Bulb There is a Flower*

#### Opening Prayer

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

#### SERVICE OF THE WORD TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

**Matthew 13:1-23**

**NRSV**

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#### The Parable of the Sower

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!"

### **The Purpose of the Parables**

Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.' With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

'You will indeed listen but never understand,  
and you will indeed look but never perceive.  
For this people's heart has grown dull,  
and their ears are hard of hearing,  
and they have shut their eyes,  
so that they might not look with their eyes,  
and hear with their ears  
and understand with their heart and turn—  
and I would heal them.'

"But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

### **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 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."

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**ALL; Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN VU 365 *Jesus Loves Me*****AS WE REFLECT UPON THE WORD OF GOD**

Sermon Message – *What Generosity Looks Like*  
*Kathy Elliott*

**Ministry Of Music**

*Cathedral Voices – Theo Bonheur*

**Prayers of the People**

Lord, Open our hearts this day and enter into our lives as we say the prayer that we have been taught to say, Our Father.....

**The Lord's Prayer****WE GO FORTH AS GOD'S PEOPLE****Invitation to the Offering**

As we prepare for this time of offering, may God open our hearts with love and touch our lives with generosity.

**DOXOLOGY VU 541 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow***

**Offering Dedication**

Generous God, we dedicate these gifts and offerings into Your service. May our generosity flow abundantly into a world in need of Your transforming love & grace. In Your loving name, we pray. Amen.

**HYMN VU 642 *Be Thou My Vision***

**COMMISSIONING AND SENDING FORTH**

As you leave this place may you be wrapped in the warmth of love and prayer, remembering you are a cherished child of God.

**HYMN MV 215 *Peace Be with You***

**Postlude**

*A warm welcome to our guest, Kathy Elliott*



*Leading Worship:*

***Kathy Elliott***

*Music Director*

***Craig Garnham***

**Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

***Thank you!***

Kathy Elliott for leading worship

Linda Dunford for reading the Scripture

for greeting

for the flowers

for the refreshments

Paul Sawatsky for guitar accompaniment

Philip Armstrong for Slides and Audio

**Mayfield United Church welcomes all to join us.**

Join our weekly email list:

[mayfieldunitedchurch.org](http://mayfieldunitedchurch.org)

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**HYMN VU 703 *In the Bulb There is a Flower***

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

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**HYMN VU 365 *Jesus Loves Me***

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to him belong, in his love we shall be strong.

*Refrain*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Jesus loves me, this I know, as he loved so long ago,  
Taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me." R.

Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,  
Wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live. R.

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### **VU541 Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures high and low;  
give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

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### **HYMN VU 642 Be Thou My Vision**

- 1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;  
naught be all else to me save that thou art,  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;  
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;  
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,  
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
- 3 Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight  
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.
- 4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5 Great God of heaven, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

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### **MV215 Peace Be With You**

Peace be with you, Peace forever,  
Peace be with you, My friends.  
Till we meet again, May God be with you. Peace, peace, peace

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