



The Parable of the Sower



What type of Soil are You?
Is God Growing in Your Heart?

Welcome to the Church of Saint John this morning. We pray that your presence with us will bring comfort and joy.

God speaks to us in many ways. In today's gospel story Jesus compares God's word to a seed, a seed which can make our lives fruitful. The seed, the

Word of God, falls into the ground, our heart, and bears fruit, some a hundred fold, some sixty fold, some thirty fold.

God's word comforts, guides, inspires, and challenges us. It is a precious seed. The sower sowed the seed haphazardly: on the path, on the rocks, among the thorns, and on good ground. One might say that this was wasteful and foolish; however on the other hand it is extremely generous. Every part of the field is given a chance to produce something.

What kind of soil do we offer God's word?

Alvin+

Prayer of Trust by Brother Charles de Foucauld

Loving God, I entrust myself to you. Do with me what you want. Whatever you wish to do with me, I thank you. I am ready for everything, I accept everything. Provided your will be done in me and in all your creatures, I desire nothing else, my God. I place my soul into your hands, I give it to you, my God, with all the love of my heart, because I love you, because it is to me a demand of love to give myself, to commit myself to you without reserve, with an unlimited trust, for you are my loving Father.

St. John's Anglican Church
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Rector: Reverend Michael H. Mitchell

*To all who mourn or need comfort,
To all who are weary and need rest,
To all who seek friendship,
To all who desire to grow in relationship with God
To all who yearn to pray,
To all who need a Saviour, And to all whoever will worship,
This Church of St. John's opens wide its doors
and in the name of Christ our Lord, says - WELCOME.*

LAY MINISTERS TODAY

Lay Readers: 8:30 am Bill Black
10:30 am Robert MacMillan, Kevin Skinner
Lectors: 8:30 am Maureen Moffatt, Sandra Jordan
10:30am Aisling Curtin, Heather Hyson
Sidespersons: 10:30 am Betty and Elroy Creaser
Hosts: Betty and Elroy Creaser

NEXT SUNDAY JULY 23RD

Lay Readers: 8:30 am Bill Black
10:30 am Roger DeMone, Velvet Eliuk
Lectors: 8:30 am Ben Smith, Roxie Smith
10:30am Rose Conrad, Rosemary Smith
Sidespersons: 10:30 am Betty and Elroy Creaser
Hosts: Lynn and Sam Burton

The Holy Eucharist

Communion Setting - Land of Rest

Prelude: Lamento - Bedard

Announcements

The Gathering of the Community

Please stand for Processional Hymn
Hymn #645 'Come Down, O Love Divine'

Greeting

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All And also with you.

All Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Glory To God

Celebrant Glory to God in the highest,
All and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. May we find peace in your service, and in the world to come, see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddanaram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger." When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright. GENESIS 25:19-34

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM REFRAIN Your word is a light upon my path.

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path. I have sworn and am determined to keep your righteous judgements. R

I am deeply troubled; preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word. Accept, O Lord, the willing tribute of my lips, and teach me your judgements. R

My life is always in my hand, yet I do not forget your law. The wicked have set a trap for me, but I have not strayed from your commandments.

R

Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; truly, they are the joy of my heart. I have applied my heart to fulfil your statutes for ever and to the end. R

PSALM 119:105-112

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

ROMANS 8:1-11

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Procession #649 'Breathe on Me, Breath of God'

Reader The Lord be with you. People And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Saint Matthew
People Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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 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! 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."

MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

The Gospel of Christ. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

The Creed Let us join in professing our baptismal faith,

I believe in God,
the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People Please kneel or sit for the prayers

Refrain: Lord, hear our prayer.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for The Rt Revd George Lindsey Russell Bruce, Ontario and Coadjutor Bishop - (Ontario) The Rt Revd Michael Oulton.

Diocesan Cycle: Parish of Hackett's Cove, Rev Andrew Cooke, and Valerie; Hubbards, Rev Laurie Omstead and Peter Delefos, Rev William MacDonald, Deacon; St. Nicholas, Westwood Hills, Rev Tammy Hodge, Rev Lynda Downing, Deacon, Rev Randal Johnson, Honorary Assistant. Local Ministerial: The Congregation of Central United Church and Rev'd Grace Caines-Corkum and Barry. Please continue to keep Rev. Michael Mitchell and Holly in your prayers.
Fisheries: Adams & Knickle - Cachalot I; Clearwater - Fundy Leader.

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon + and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Peace All stand, and the celebrant addresses the people.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you. We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts

Offertory Hymn #447 'Lord, We Hear Thy Word with Gladness'

Representatives of the parish present the gifts of bread and wine for the Eucharist. Each one as they are able, makes an offering to the Lord for the needs and responsibilities of the Church to be placed on the altar.

The Prayer Over The Gifts

Father, your word creates in us a yearning for your kingdom.
Receive all we offer you this day, and keep us in your peace; for the sake of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to thank you and praise you, holy and gracious God, creator of all things, ruler of heaven and earth, sustainer of life, for you are the source of all goodness, rich in mercy and abounding in love; you are faithful to your people in every generation, and your word endures for ever. We praise you Lord, with all the angels, in their song of joy.

CP #719 Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power, God of might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when

he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

CP #720 Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

We offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours almighty Father, now and forever. #721 (Sung) Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

With Jesus our Lord, we pray to the Father that we may always do his will.

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 day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread for distribution, and says:

Creator of all,
you gave us golden fields of wheat,
whose many grains we have gathered
and made into this one bread.

All So may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth
into your kingdom.

The celebrant invites the people to share in communion and may say,
The gifts of God for the People of God.

People Thanks be to God.

The Communion CP #745

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The celebrant and people receive communion.

The sacrament is given with the following words.

The body of Christ (given for you). The blood of Christ (shed for you).

The communicant responds each time, Amen.

*This community of faith, welcomes to the Lord's table
all who are baptized and who wish to be nourished
with the Body and Blood of Christ.*

(Please join the choir in singing the Communion Hymn)

Communion Hymns #65 'Here, Lord, We Take the Broken Bread'; #64 'Author of Life Divine'

Prayer After Communion

Living God, in this sacrament we have shared in your eternal kingdom. May we who taste this mystery forever serve you in faith, hope, and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Doxology

Glory to God

whose power working in us

can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Glory to God, from generation to generation,

in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing & Dismissal

Do not be afraid, for the Father loves us.

Do not be afraid, for Christ walks by our side.

Do not be afraid, for the Holy Spirit will give us courage.

Do not be afraid, for we are in God's hands.

Go and face life and bear witness to God's love with the blessing of almighty God, the Father, + and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn #383 'Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun'

Postlude: Dialogue sur les grands jeux – Clerambault

TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND PARISHIONERS OF
ST. JOHN'S AND COMMUNITY

We are so humbled and truly grateful for all your support in the kind things each of you have done. Be assured that when time permits, we will send a personal thank you. It is so comforting to know that your continued prayers for Fr. Michael and myself continues. We truly miss being among you all and worshipping with you.

Although we do not understand why this is happening, we know that God has a plan for each of us. We are praying God grants us a miracle. Please pray with us.
Holly & Michael

There will be a Congregational Beach Party at Bachman's Beach, sponsored by Sunday School on July 23rd at 3:00pm. Bring your own picnic and we will provide dessert. Everyone welcome. Bring a friend.

Music Announcements:

On Wednesday, July 19 we have two exciting musical events to celebrate here at St. John's. Pianist Peter Anthony Togni is our guest at Wednesdays at Noon. The public is cordially invited to attend – free will offering only. At 7:30 pm that evening Musique Royale presents the Elmer Iseler Singers with honoured guest, Dr. Roberta Bondar. Dr. Bondar was the first Canadian woman to travel into space. High Flight: Songs of the Stars is a multi-media choral performance of sonic splendour combined with captivating photographs and images of space, highlighting music of the spheres by various well known Canadian composers as well as the performance of a work by Lydia Adams, with text by Dr. Roberta Bondar describing her experience of leaving Earth and coming back once again to its sublime beauty. Dr. Bondar will speak at the event about the search in the stars for new possibilities for life on other planets. Tickets are \$30 and are available at Shop on the Corner and at the door.

On Friday, July 28 at 4 pm Barbara Butler hosts an event featuring a quintet from the National Youth Orchestra of Canada at 1199 Oakland Rd. in Mahone Bay. If you would like to attend this event and support the orchestra please contact Barbara at 902-624-0506 or email barbara.butler@ns.sympatico.ca. Dinner and performance - \$35, with a partial tax receipt. The full orchestra of 94 of Canada's finest young musicians performs in Halifax on the following Monday, all part of a special cross Canada 150 tour.

BAPTISM will be held Sunday, August 6th at the 10:30 am service. Please contact the Parish Office, if you are interested in having a child or adult baptised, at 634-4994 or stjohnslunenburg@bellaliant.com.

WORD OF THANKS

Many of you do not know this information, but Sandy Jordan faithfully collects the bulletins every week and takes them home to be folded. The next day she treks back to town to return them to the church. Sandy has done this for years!

This summer we are giving Sandy a break....a summer vacation. Young Sebastian Haumering has taken over her duties for the summer as he works toward receiving his Duke of Edinburgh award. Way to go Sebastian!

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