



August 1, 2021 10th Sunday of Pentecost



Worship Participants

Preaching Today: Pastor Meredith McGrath

Organist/Pianist: Tim Smith

Reader: Lynne Moratzka

When we hear the word, “kingdom,” we often think of power, force, ability to rule over and control. We are a people seemingly obsessed with power. We insist on the power of individual choice. We amass the resources to protect ourselves from the choices of others or to force them to comply with ours. We like the sound of, “kingdom,” if the kingdom is ours. Our nation. Our religion. Jesus says, “the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed.” What on earth does that mean?

Prelude

Ring of the Bells

Welcome

Hymn: *ELW 670 - Build Us Up, Lord*

Confession and Forgiveness

- P: God of wonders, there are days when we cannot see you. Someone is standing in the way, blocking your light. Kids, or phones, or traffic distract our attention away from you. We want to see you, but sometimes we forget to show up or we put it in the calendar wrong. And on those days, when we cannot see you, we tell ourselves that everything is ok because we know your stories anyway.
- C: But God, it doesn't feel ok. I feel trapped by the brokenness around me; the selfishness, the distractions, and the mistakes I've made. My heart wants me to climb the tallest tree, to see you in a fresh, unencumbered way. Still, I find myself grumbling, standing stubborn in the dirt, and hardening my heart. Forgive me, loving God. Forgive me for how I treat others, for how I treat myself, and for how I treat you.**
- P: Sisters and brothers in faith, God sees you no matter where you stand; trapped in the dirt or up in a tree. Wherever you are, God invites you to be free. You are forgiven. You are loved. And you are free to begin again. In the name of our Creator, the Son, and the Spirit of God.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

God of wonders, give us fresh eyes to better see you. Help us put aside our fears and hesitations, that we may care for ALL our neighbors. You are the source of light, wisdom, and life for the world. We aspire to be compassionate like you. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

Reading: Mark 4:30-32

Sermon

Hymn: *ELW 516 - Almighty God, Your Word is Cast, verses 1,3, & 4*

Prayers of the People

Offering

Offering Prayer

God of wonders, we are grateful for the trees you give us to climb. Help us to climb farther into your stories: seeing you more fully, breathing more peacefully, sharing ourselves more completely. To you we gladly offer ourselves; our work, our rest, our resources, and our love. In your blessed name we pray, Amen.

Communion - Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Table Blessing/Prayer

Blessing and Sending

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

For readings, refer to your Bible or use an online Bible source, such as [Bible Gateway](#). [NOTE: The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) is used.]