



I HAVE A  
MUSTARD SEED,  
AND I'M NOT  
AFRAID TO USE IT!

*Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

*June 16, 2024*

*Old First Presbyterian Church  
Huntington, New York*



To all who live joyfully and long to share their excitement ... to all who mourn and need comfort ... to all who are weary and need rest ... to all who are homeless and desire sheltering love ... to all who pray or are in need of prayer ... to all who sin and need a Savior ... to all who recognize Christ in their midst and hunger to share God's love with all the world ... Old First Presbyterian Church opens wide its doors and in the name of Jesus Christ, says ... WELCOME!



All hymns and Scriptures are printed in today's order of worship, or you may look them up in the pew Bibles and hymnals. Large print versions of each are available with the usher.

**\* The congregation is invited to stand in body or spirit and speak items printed in bold.**

## WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Presbyterian Church of New Zealand  
adapted from Psalm 134

One: Everyone who serves God, come and offer thanks.

**All: Thank you God for your love to me!**

One: Everyone who has gathered in this place,  
lift your hands and praise God together.

**All: Thank you God for your love in this place!**

One: Shout praises to God, for you are God's servants.  
Shout praises to the Lord, your God.

**All: Thank you God for your love to others!**

One: All who serve together in this place,  
who serve our God, come and shout praises.

**All: Thank you God for your love that endures forever!**

One: Awakened, energized, and invigorated by the love and praise of our God,  
let us lift our hearts and voices together in joyful and joy-filled worship!

### \*HYMN 774

There Is Now a New Creation

*There is now a new creation  
through the grace of Jesus Christ,  
peace and reconciliation  
with the God of endless life.*

*Call the lost and found together;  
tell the news to everyone:  
now the past is gone forever  
and a new life has begun.*

*Wrap the prodigal in welcome;  
run to greet the wayward child.  
All is finished and forgiven;  
let us now be reconciled.*

*Come and join the celebration;  
come and join this happy feast;  
Jesus makes an invitation  
to the greatest and the least.*

*There is now a new creation  
through the grace of Jesus Christ.  
Sing, with thanks and adoration,  
to the God of endless life!*

Text: David Gambrell, 2009

Music: Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715, alt.

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## **PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION**

Living God, from you come vitality, love, and joy. Your peace is our companion, your love is our strength, your Son is our hope. Your Spirit nurtures tiny seeds of purpose and potential, hidden deep in the soil of life, springing forth to surprise us with new life. As the earth blooms around us, we bring you our prayers, trusting that your Spirit will renew in us the gifts we need to serve you faithfully. We worship you in gratitude, offering you our praise with the voices of all creation, along with our trust, because you have come close to us in Christ, our Lord. Receive our humble love, grateful praise, and joyful worship, now and always, in the name of Jesus, the Savior, working within us in small ways to make a large impact in the world.

**Holy and merciful God, our hope and salvation, as we watch the growth of people and creation, we confess that we often resist the changes growth brings in our lives. We are quick to form opinions, then cling tightly to them, as if they are unchangeable. We resist new insights and new directions, fearful that growth in mind, body, or spirit will leave us unrecognizable to ourselves. Forgive us, O Lord, when we think we already know enough. Grant us faith like a mustard seed, able to grow with your blessing into something even mightier than we may imagine. Empower our words and deeds to serve as mighty signs of your lively kingdom among us. In the name of Jesus, our Savior, amen.**

## DECLARATION OF GRACE

One: Friends, hear the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ – and Christ died for us;  
Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us.

**All: May we believe this Good News for God’s creation and for all God’s people!  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and released by God’s generous grace!  
May we rejoice in God’s freely given gift! Thanks be to God! Amen!**

## \*RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING (Hymn 581)

*Glory Be to the Father*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.*

Text: Traditional liturgical text

Music: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

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## \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: The peace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Please turn to those around you and share the peace of Christ.

*Please share signs and words of Christ’s peace with those worshipping near you.*

## PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

**God of resurrection and new life, breathe your Spirit upon us, so that as your Word is read and proclaimed, we may listen, understand, believe, and live. Speak through these Scriptures, inspiring our growth and gratitude, so that we may be changed by what we hear. Empower us to defy our limited expectations as we produce unlimited fruit for the kingdom of God. We pray together in the name of Jesus, the Christ, amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING (p. 259 in pew Bible)

1 Samuel 16:1-13 [NRSVUE]

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” <sup>2</sup> Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will

show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.”<sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?”<sup>5</sup> He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the LORD.”<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”<sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”<sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”

<sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.”<sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.”<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSIVE READING OF THE PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 20 [NRSVUE]

- <sup>1</sup>The LORD answer you in the day of trouble!  
The name of the God of Jacob protect you!
- <sup>2</sup>**May God send you help from the sanctuary  
and give you support from Zion.**
- <sup>3</sup>May God remember all your offerings  
and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices.

**4 May God grant you your heart's desire  
and fulfill all your plans.**

<sup>5</sup> May we shout for joy over your victory  
and in the name of our God set up our banners.

May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.

**<sup>6</sup> Now I know that the LORD will help his anointed;  
he will answer him from his holy heaven  
with mighty victories by his right hand.**

<sup>7</sup> Some take pride in chariots and some in horses,  
but our pride is in the name of the LORD our God.

**<sup>8</sup> They will collapse and fall,  
but we shall rise and stand upright.**

<sup>9</sup> Give victory to the king, O LORD;  
answer us when we call.

**GOSPEL READING (p. 38 in pew Bible)**

Mark 4:26-34 [NRSVUE]

<sup>26</sup> Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground <sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup> He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds, <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

<sup>33</sup> With many parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup> he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE**

*“You Have a Mustard Seed! Don’t Be Afraid to Use It!”*

**\*HYMN 171**

*A Sower Came from Ancient Hills*

*A Sower came from ancient hills and cast good seed abroad:  
his field, ten thousand human hearts; his seed, the word of God.  
And some who listened would not hear, and some who heard forgot.  
But some received in fertile soil the truth the Sower taught.*

*A Sower walked throughout the land and, everywhere he trod,  
he sowed his life because he was himself the Seed of God.  
But then, atop a barren hill, beneath a darkening sky,  
they threw God’s Seed on stony ground and left it there to die.*

*The Seed was buried deep in death beneath a blood-red sky,  
and deeper still was buried hope for those who watched him die.  
But then, in Joseph’s garden fair, as dawn broke o’er the land,  
the Seed, from three days’ silent sleep, awoke at God’s command!*

*O Christ, you come among us still, the Sower and the Seed.  
As once you sowed the truth of God in glowing word and deed,  
implant your Word in waiting hearts, and let it there take hold,  
until it bears in fruitful lives a harvest hundredfold.*

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1998

Music: John D. Horman, 2003

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**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*The Apostles’ Creed (Ecumenical)*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, PRAYER FOR MEN, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Throughout today's prayer, please listen for an invitation to lift silent prayers before God, then join in praying together as follows:

One: Plant seeds of your kingdom in our midst, O God,

**All: Empowering us to bear the fruits of new life.**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## DISCERNING GOD'S CALL TO ACTION

The parables of Mark's Gospel remind us that God's kingdom grows from small beginnings, with surprising results. We respond to this promise by offering our gifts of time, talent, and treasure – no matter how small or large they may seem. May we give freely and joyfully, trusting that God will honor our generosity for the purposes of God's Spirit at work, among us and beyond us, filling God's creation with new life.

## OFFERTORY

*"Dance, Love, Sing, Live!"* by Greg Gilpin

Women of the Sanctuary Choir

*If you would like to offer a financial gift during today's worship service, please do so by placing your gift in one of the two wooden boxes, conveniently located at both Sanctuary entrances.*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of small seeds and secret growth, bless each gift of time, talent, and treasure that we offer to you. Use them as seeds of new life in our community and throughout your world. Grow results that we cannot begin to imagine – within us, among us, through us, and beyond us. For the sake of Christ Jesus, our Living Lord. Amen.**

## \*HYMN 714

*God of the Fertile Fields*

*God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields  
our daily bread: forth from your bounteous hand  
come gifts your love has planned, that all in every land  
be clothed and fed.*



We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you  
all that you give; help us in love to share,  
teach us like you to care for people everywhere,  
that all may live.

As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need,  
so your reign grows. Let all our toil be used,  
no gift of yours abused, no humble task refused  
your love bestows.

God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died  
to make us one: we pledge our lives anew  
in faithful love to you. Guide all we say and do.  
Your will be done.

Text: Georgia Harkness, 1955, alt.

Music: Felice de Giardini, 1769, alt.

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## **CELEBRATING OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES**

*William Alexander – Long Island University  
Jake Amend – Sacred Heart University  
Thomas Girimonti – Wesleyan University  
Nolan Means – Michigan State University*

## **\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

## **\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*Come, O Lord, be with us. Fill us with joy and thanksgiving.  
May our hearts, flow with peace. Come with your love and surround us.  
Friendship and love, may they bloom and grow, bloom and grow forever.  
Bless us now. Bless our friends. Bless all people forever.*

## **\*POSTLUDE**

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### **This Morning's Worship Leaders:**

*Rev. Matthew Means, Pastor*

*Eric and Jennifer Heinz, Live-Stream*

*Nolan Means, Liturgist*

*Ken Friese, Director of Music, and Sanctuary Choir*