

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, July 12, 2020 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Order of Worship, including Scripture
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Seasonal Theme:

The teaching and ministry of Jesus the Christ.

Theme for the Day:

To encourage the disciples to share the gospel in the most unpromising places.

Call to Worship:

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

Pastor: Your word is a lamp before my feet.

People: **And a light for my journey.**

Pastor: I have sworn and I fully mean it:

People: **I will keep your righteous rules.**

Pastor: Please, Lord, accept my spontaneous gifts of praise.

People: **Teach me your rules!**

Pastor: Your laws are my possession forever because they are my heart's joy.

Unison: **I have decided to keep your statutes forever, every last one.**

Centering and Prayer of Illumination:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

Lord, make us the instruments of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned. With your Holy Spirit, shine your way through your message, so that we shall be guided by your light to reach eternal life. In Jesus's name, we pray. Amen.

Reading from Scripture: **Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23**

(text of Scripture follows the service, beginning on page 2)

Message: ARE YOU THE SOIL, THE SEED, OR THE SOWER?

Pastoral Prayer

With thanksgiving for God's gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor for God's work in the world. Thank you for continuing to send your offerings and pledges by mail.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

O Master Gardener, as you have sown our lives in rich and fertile soil, may we bear much fruit through our giving. With these offerings, may your realm be brought to earth, as we plant seeds of hope in the fields of life. Bless our gifts and our ministry, that the world may reap a harvest of generosity and love. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction:

Stay firm in his word. Walk in his light. Grow in his grace. Harvest righteousness. Christ's teachings nourish our souls, forever.

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Scripture Reading – July 12, 2020

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 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.”

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Sebastopol United Methodist Church
500 North Main Street, Sebastopol CA 95472
707-823-7971 sebumc@sonic.net sebumc.org YouTube: Sebastopol UMC

– Thank You for worshipping with us today –