

Sebastopol United Methodist Church

Sunday, June 13, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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Seasonal Theme:

We learn of the Christian faith and how we are to follow Jesus as his disciples.

Theme for the Day:

Even with the humblest beginnings, God's kingdom will grow and develop into a great enterprise on God's behalf.

Call to Worship:

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

Pastor: The Lord answers you on the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you.

People: **May he send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion.**

Pastor: May he remember all your offerings, and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices.

People: **May he grant you your heart's desire, and fulfill all your plans.**

Pastor: May we shout for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God set up our banners.

People: **May he grant you your heart's desire, and fulfill all your plans.**

Unison: **Give victory to the king, O Lord, answer us when we call. Amen.**

Centering and Prayer of Illumination:

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

Lord Jesus, help us to grow spiritually, with our whole emphasis on you alone. Help us to be the instruments through which to continue to extend your love and compassion. Open our hearts to the needs of others, with the willingness to be generous. Open our minds and souls to your words, so that your kingdom continues to expand with life's promise of the everlasting life. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Readings from Scripture: **Mark 4:26-34** **2 Corinthians 5:11-17**

Message: **IN CHRIST, WE GROW IN MYSTERY!**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (UMH 895)

(we read together)

**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 tresspasses as we forgive those who tresspass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

*We have come to give praise to God and to say thank you for all that God has given us.
In thanksgiving and praise, let us bring our gifts before God.*

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

We give you thanks, O God, for every blessing and spiritual gift you have poured out upon us. Bless in every way the gifts the people here have given in order to enrich their ministries. Make us grateful to be able to share what we have. Let the gifts of our lives be a source of blessings here on earth, all to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction:

Stay calm in the light and love of God, growing in God's grace, and give him glory in all that you do. Reclaim victory in his honor and be joyful in it.

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Scripture Readings – June 13, 2021

first reading – MARK 4:26-34

He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; 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.”

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

second reading – 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-17

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences.

We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Thank you for joining us in worship today.

SEBASTOPOL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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