

# The Mount Carmel Congregational Church

*A United Church of Christ*



*Faith Like a Mustard Seed*, Ivan Guaderrama (2016)

**Third Sunday After Pentecost**  
**June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

## Prelude

## “ITALIAN HYMN”

*Arr. Gilbert Martin*

## Greeting and Announcements

## Passing of the Peace of Christ

## Call to Worship

One: A love that never ceases,

**All: A creativity that designed the universe,**

One: A hope that cannot be quenched,

**All: A pursuit of reconciliation no matter the cost:**

One: These are the things that are of God.

**All: We are the people of God. Let us worship our God together.**

## \*Hymn

“We Love Your Realm, O God”

NCH #312

## Prayer of Confession

*(In Unison)*

**O God who gave us life, you hold us in your hands. You cradle us in our need, and you push us into growth. We know that all is not well in our world, and so we turn to you to be reminded of your faithfulness and our calling. We grieve the loss of many things and people, and we hurt in part because we cannot make things better for ourselves, for those we love, or for the world. And so, we pray for healing, and for strength, courage, and grace to face this day and this world. We pray to find a sense of your presence in the middle of everything, and to be comforted and compelled by you as we seek to be the people you created us to be. Amen.**

## Words of Assurance

**First Reading:**

Ezekiel 17: 22-24

Leon Fiftal

The Lord God proclaims: I myself will take one of the top branches from the tall cedar. I will pluck a tender shoot from its crown, and I myself will plant it on a very high and lofty mountain. On Israel's mountainous highlands I will plant it, and it will send out branches and bear fruit. It will grow into a mighty cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it and find shelter in the shade of its boughs. Then all the trees in the countryside will know that I, the Lord, bring down the tall tree and raise up the lowly tree, and make the green tree wither and the dry tree bloom. I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.

**Second Reading:**

Mark 4: 26-34

Then Jesus said, "This is what God's kingdom is like. It's as though someone scatters seed on the ground, then sleeps and wakes night and day. The seed sprouts and grows, but the farmer doesn't know how. The earth produces crops all by itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full head of grain. Whenever the crop is ready, the farmer goes out to cut the grain because it's harvesttime."

He continued, "What's a good image for God's kingdom? What parable can I use to explain it? Consider a mustard seed. When scattered on the ground, it's the smallest of all the seeds on the earth; but when it's planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all vegetable plants. It produces such large branches that the birds in the sky are able to nest in its shade."

With many such parables he continued to give them the word, as much as they were able to hear. He spoke to them only in parables, then explained everything to his disciples when he was alone with them.

**Sermon**

Lillian Steinmayer

**\*Hymn**

"God of the Fertile Fields"

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## **The Joys and Concerns of the Parish Family**

*Altar flowers for this week's service are given by Carillon Copeland in loving memory of her husband, Pete Copeland.*

Please remember the following persons in your prayers: Carol Fitzsimons; Marilyn Bronson; Karl Paulette; Amos Hewitt; Rhonda Pruzinsky; and Gilbert Spencer.

## **Moments of Silent Prayer**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

*(In Unison)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy names. 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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

### **Call to Offering**

#### **Offertory**

**"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"**

*Arr. John Helgen*

#### **\*The Doxology**

*(In Unison)*

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God for all that Love has done,  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit—One. Amen.***



\*Hymn

“God of the Fertile Fields”

1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of  
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in  
3 As grows the hid - den seed, to fruit that  
4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your  
trust from you all that you give; help us in  
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our  
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,  
love to share, teach us like you to care  
toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,  
lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.  
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.  
no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.  
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

As a reminder, Reverend Milton will be out of the country during the month of June, returning on Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. During his absence, pastoral support will be provided by Rev. Dr. Ginger Brasher-Cunningham, his wife and pastor of First Congregational Church of Guilford. If at any time you need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the office and we will put you in touch with her.

The office will be closed the week of June 18<sup>th</sup> through June 20<sup>th</sup>. This will not affect any groups that meet in the Hall and/or Parlor. If you require immediate assistance during this time, please feel free to contact me by email at [office@mccucc.com](mailto:office@mccucc.com).

We are always looking for Ushering and Coffee Hour Volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Aren in the office, or use the sign-up sheet now located near the main entrance to the Parish House.

Copies of the 2024 Directory are available in the Office. If you would like a digital copy of our Directory, please fill out the following Google Form (<https://mccucc.tiny.us/directory>) and we will send you a copy as soon as possible. If you would like a physical copy, please contact the office and we will set a copy aside for you.

Keep your Ark Banks floating! Please don't forget to keep bringing in your Ark Banks. The monies collected go into a discretionary fund which can be used to help people in need.

Donations for the Food Bank are needed if you are able to contribute. Non-perishable items such as canned beef stew, hearty soups, canned fish, peanut butter, mac and cheese packages, and oatmeal would be greatly appreciated.

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024



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