

(Parts of the service in **bold** are for everyone to speak in unison.)

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Prayer of Invocation

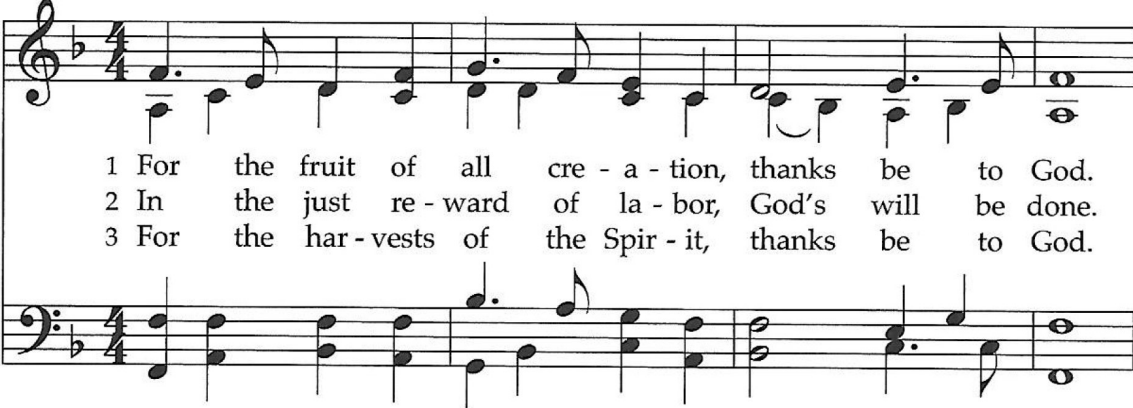
**You do not want us
to be ignorant of your
dreams and hopes for this world,
God of holiness,
so you speak to us in parables,
so we might pay careful attention
to your words;
you tell us stories about
our grandparents in the faith,
so we might become mentors
to our grandchildren, and theirs.
Filling us with the holy oil
of generosity and grace,
you make us ready to welcome
Jesus Christ into the world,
and to open our hearts
to those who are in need.**

Hymn 36

For the Fruit of All Creation

(continued)

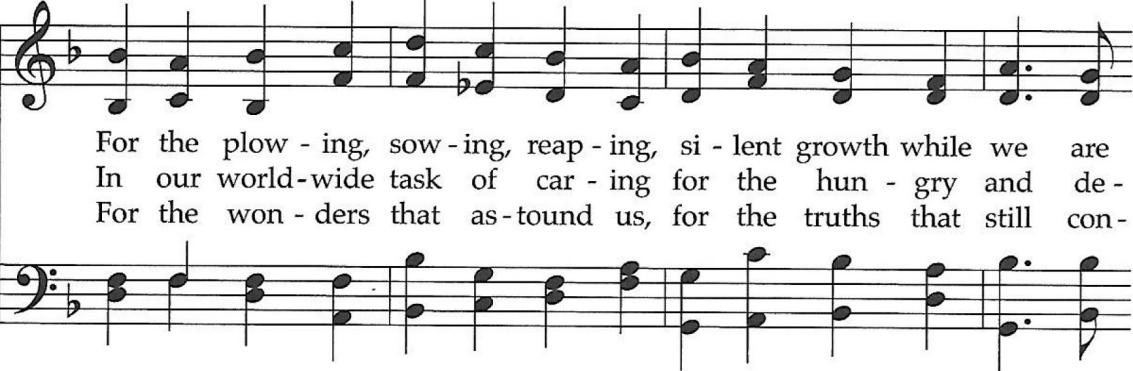
For the Fruit of All Creation 36



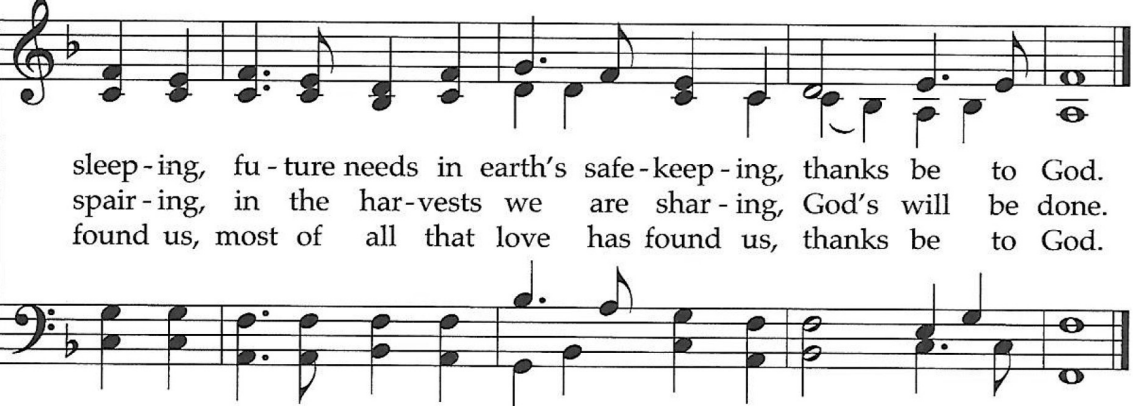
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

The Parable of the Sower

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

The Purpose of the Parables

Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that

*'looking they may not perceive,
and listening they may not understand.'*

The Parable of the Sower Explained

"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance."

Sermon

Special Music

The Earth Belongs to God Alone

Affirmation of Faith

A Creed: The Mini-Parables of Jesus

**We believe in the love-kindom of God,
through Christ upon us, within us, beyond us.**

**We believe the love-kindom is like a mustard seed;
sown in apparent insignificance,
growing into magnificence for the greening of the world.**

**We believe the love-kindom is like yeast;
inserted in humble insignificance into the dough of life,
expanding into enough bread for the world.**

**We believe the love-kindom of God is like a treasure;
lost and rendered insignificant under the ground,
now found with joy and thanksgiving.**

**We believe the love-kindom of God is like pearls;
all others become insignificant
when the largest, most beautiful pearl of all is found.**

**We believe the love-kindom of God is like a net full
of fish;**

**where even insignificant sardines are saved
but worm-ridden barracuda are thrown away.**

**We believe in the love-kindom of God,
through Christ upon us, within us, beyond us;
where the meek and the poor, the merciful and the
hungry,
rejoice with the angels of God.**

Loving God, we believe; scatter our unbelief. Amen

(continued)

As sabers rattle in lands both close and distant
we confess that we are in pain,
We are loathe to take account of the many ways
in which we unwittingly profit
from the machinery of war and greed.
*Still we read the parables of Jesus
which fly in the face of social convention
offending those who dare to listen.*
**Christ have mercy,
Christ have mercy,
have mercy upon us.**
We are loathe to take account of the many ways
in which we unwittingly profit
from the machinery of war and greed.
*Still we read the parables of Jesus
which fly in the face of social convention
offending those who dare to listen.*
**Christ have mercy,
Christ have mercy,
have mercy upon us.**

Believing that we are insignificant,
and at the same time fearful that we might become so,
we are timid to use our voices to speak truth to a world of
war.
*Now the parables of Jesus offer a new vision;
now the servants dine and the masters serve,
now the last becomes and the first becomes last.*
**Lord have mercy,
Lord have mercy,
have mercy upon us.**

Hear the good news of the Story
that no sheep is unworthy of rescue,
no coin too small to be missed.
Hear the good news
that love is stronger than hate
and that this power is alive within you
now and forever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn 727

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Good Shepherd Staff

Bridge Pastor: Rev. Bethany Benz-Whittington
Choir Director: Sara Tyburczy

Office Admin: Teddie McConnell
Accompanist: Dr. Jonathan Morris

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant 727

The Servant Song



1, 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to -
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you
 5 When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall



be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the
 geth - er on the road. We are here to help each
 night - time of your fear. I will hold my hand out
 laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and
 find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to -



grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
 oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
 to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.
 (repeat stanza 1)

The opening and closing stanza expresses the essence of this folk-style song about the mutuality of servant ministry: those who serve must also be willing to be served. This is what Christ intended when he commanded the disciples to "wash one another's feet" (John 13:14).



Good Stuff @ Good Shepherd



Hello from humid East Tennessee!!

As many of you know, my family has just moved to East Tennessee. My husband, Matthew, also a PC(USA) pastor, received a call to Highland Presbyterian Church (highlandpresby.org) in Maryville, TN. It's fun for me because right up the road is the University of Tennessee, my alma mater! And, a little further up the road is Morristown, TN, where I was born! So it's like coming home in a way, though we already miss Colorado so much. Mostly the dryness.

Not to worry, though. I'm committed to you at least until the end of September, or until a Transitional Pastor is secured. If you'll recall my other recent communications, I talked about what this virtual world of ministry could look like. And, from here, I'm still able to do that! However, if you have questions or concerns, or just want to chat, don't hesitate to reach out. I'm always happy to hear from you and to work together.

In the meantime, here are some pictures from my trip across the country.



Yup, that's right, we didn't take any pictures except of a sleeping baby and a silly cat. So, we're those people now.

Peace to you all, and enjoy the dry heat!

Bethany

Joys and Concerns

The construction project is under way. Contact Teddie if you need to enter the building regularly. (office@thegoodshepherd.org) Please be aware that Teddie is working remotely and checking phone messages frequently. Her hours are still Monday through Friday from 9 am to 2 pm, so please respect these hours. Thanks!

Please pray the family of Glenn Flyr, who passed away on December 30, 2019, for the family of Dick Kelly who lost his sister recently, for communities affected by COVID-19 here in the United States and throughout the world, and for our church, that it may thrive as it brings the good news to our area.



In June, our Food Bank served 43 families, 168 individuals, including 68 children.

We were closed one day due to construction issues. We will be closed until August 4th while the food bank construction is being completed.

I must say, working the food bank these days is an interesting challenge! We could use a couple more volunteers, or substitutes.

Mary Kennedy

Throughout the spring, there has been much discussion about how and whether the **Elephant Rock Ride fundraiser for the ZMP** could take place this year. The regular June time frame has been cancelled and rescheduled to October 11th. But in the meantime, faithful bike riders connected with Brighton First Presbyterian Church have planned an alternate shorter ride that will happen on Sunday, July 12th, beginning and ending at their church building. They are inviting other riders to join them. **Stephen Chappell**, who has been a rider in the race for many years, is excited about this new option, especially since he won't need to drive all the way to Douglas County Fairgrounds. **David Wolters and Teddie McConnell** have also signed up to participate in this race. Perhaps a few more of you in our congregation would like to join him, riding for Team Good Shepherd! Please contact Mary McCarron if you'd like more information about registering and creating your own fund-raising page. If you decide to do this, please let us know so we can support you!

If you'd like to support Stephen and/or David and Teddie, you may send a check to Good Shepherd, noting that it is for "Team Good Shepherd" with the name. You can also go online to their fundraising page or to their Facebook page to donate. Go to zimpartnership.org for more general information. Other questions? Please contact Mary McCarron.



Meanwhile and with sadness, Teddie and David have decided to live-stream their wedding from the church with just the wedding party physically in attendance in the hope of keeping everyone as safe as possible. They will have a reception once the church is back open, not sure when that will be. A link will be provided for everyone who'd like to watch. Thank you all for understanding.

The Men's Shed is tentatively planning to resume meeting August 3rd at the church. They'll be using current social distancing rules and wearing masks. If this changes, we'll let you know. Contact Tim Schneider for more information.

