

## SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Prelude** *Allegro Assai Vivace from Sonata No. 1*

Felix Mendelssohn

**Call to Worship**

One: God's word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

**All: We gather to root ourselves in sacred story and grow in faith.**

One: God's teachings are our heritage; they bring joy to searching hearts.

**All: We gather in God's presence to offer our thanks and praise.****Hymn** *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.  
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear.  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.  
Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!

**Prayer of Confession**

**God the Sower, we confess that we do not always live as people who obey your law. Sometimes we are like rocky ground. We welcome your word when life is simple, but as soon as we face challenge, we forget your teachings and our faith withers. Sometimes we are a thicket full of thorns. We clamor for more and step over the needy. Your word is choked out of our hearts. Forgive us, Lord. Let your Spirit work within and among us. Make us good soil. Weed out our resistance and water us with your grace, that your word may grow within us and we may bear fruit for the sake of your kingdom. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon****Passing the Peace****Prayer for Illumination****New Testament Reading:** Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> Let anyone with ears listen!" <sup>18</sup> "Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>

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. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup> 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 <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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.”

**Homily** “Planting Seeds”

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair

**Affirmation of Faith (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)**

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit we trust in the one Triune God, the holy one of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Offering** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

John Rutter

Marilyn Wilkins, soprano

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,  
Graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

**Benediction**

**Postlude** *Postlude on Hymn to Joy*

Jason Payne



**Remember in your thoughts and prayers:**

**Health concerns:** Louis McCaleb; Jimmy Gilchrest; Donna Morrison; Bill McPhail; Jane Christopher; Dee Lowery & Joannie King; Harvey Coe (Brett Coe's father); Lauren (Imelda Carrillo's granddaughter);

**Loss of loved ones:** Teresa Moore on the death of her brother, Mike, on July 4 (Sandra Baswell's children), and Mary Jo Halbert (former FPCP DCE) on the death of her husband, James, on July 7.

**Emergency Contact for each member needed for our church records**

We are updating our records and want to have an emergency contact for everyone. Please contact the church at 281-991-8700 (*leave a message*) or email at office@fpcpasadena.org with your designated Emergency Contact. All information will be kept confidential. Thanks!