

Service of the Word for the Home and for ZOOM
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 2020
10:00 a.m.

In-Person Worship has Resumed!

Are You Online? Join Zoom Worship!

Please email Caitlyn in the office at officefelc@zoominternet.net to be added to the email list for a link to the service

Not Online? Join Us Over the Phone!

+1 301 715 8592 US
Meeting ID: 956 305 5281
Password: 408299

If you are planning to return to in-person worship services, please let Caitlyn know that you no longer need to receive the bulletin in the mail.

GATHERING

If you are not online and worshipping at home with more than one person, the parts may be divided up responsively or may be prayed in unison.

WELCOME

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father and of the Son + of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

HYMN *(see next page)*

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: UNSER HERRSCHER Joachim Neander 1650–1680

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Let us pray: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON *zoom/ in person worship*

THE WORD

FIRST READING Genesis 25:19-34

Although Jacob was younger than his twin, Esau, he eventually takes the birthright away from his brother. Jacob is portrayed in the Bible as deceptive, gripping his brother when he came out of the womb and driving a hard bargain by buying the birthright for a bowl of lentils.

¹⁹These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, ²⁰and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²²The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³And the LORD said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger."

²⁴When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. ²⁶Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

²⁷When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. ²⁸Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. ³⁰Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) ³¹Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." ³²Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" ³³Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

PSALM 119:105-112 *Read responsively*

¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light upon my path.

¹⁰⁶**I have sworn and am determined
to keep your righteous judgments.**

¹⁰⁷I am deeply troubled;
preserve my life, O LORD, according to your word.

¹⁰⁸**Accept, O LORD, the willing tribute of my lips,
and teach me your judgments.**

¹⁰⁹My life is always in danger,
yet I do not forget your teaching.

¹¹⁰**The wicked have set a trap for me,
but I have not strayed from your commandments.**

¹¹¹Your decrees are my inheritance forever;
truly, they are the joy of my heart.

¹¹²**I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes
forever and to the end.**

SECOND READING Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the

Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We welcome the gospel:

Alleluia! Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. You have revealed these things to infants. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The Holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who bear.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When 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. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet 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. ²²As 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. ²³But 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *online*

CHILDREN'S CHURCH IDEAS

Materials for children's church at home are available at the church! Please contact the church office for delivery or pick up.

Genesis 25:19-34

Birth of Jacob and Esau

*Use flat spoons to make the twin boys

Psalms 119:105-112

God's Word is a Lamp

*Use the play foam to make a lamp

*Go to YouTube and search for "Thy Word" by Amy Grant. This will bring up many, many videos of this song, some sung by children using hand signs.

Romans 8: 1-11

God's Spirit lives in you

*On your home altar you have a small glass jar you filled with water. Think about Baptism and God's love and grace that fills you. Dip your finger into the water and the sign of the Cross, remembering your Baptism.

Matthew 13: 1-9,18-23

The farmer scatters seeds

*Draw where the seeds land: on the road, eaten by birds; on the rocky ground, withered By the sun; on thorn bushes, choked by thorns, and on good soil, to grow very well.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our needy world, responding to each petition with the words, "hear us, O God."

A brief silence.

Good and loving God:

That you would nourish the word you have planted in our hearts with stories that challenge us and songs that give us hope, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

That you would bless our country and our local community with good leaders who exercise wisdom, consistency, patience, and care, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

That there would be relief from the heat and that crops may be preserved, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

That those who are imprisoned, especially those at Butler County Prison, may be protected from the coronavirus, experience redemption for wrongs committed, and be supported in a new way of life, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

That you would draw us into a journey of compassion as we listen to those who have been undergone oppression, injustice, racism, and despair, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

That brothers and sisters within families may accept one another's differences, live together without jealousy or quarrels, and support one another and the generations around them, we pray: **Hear us, O God.**

That those who are anxious or depressed may experience relief; that those who are searching for cures and vaccinations for all diseases may find success, and that those who are ill or injured in any way receive a measure of healing and the comfort of your presence, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

That those who experience the cruel reality of death this week may be sustained by your Son's victory over the grave, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son...*(the presiding minister continues giving thanks, concluding)*

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;

gather into one all who share this bread and wine;

fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,

that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;

through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,

with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Finally, let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us:

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 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 and ever. **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Grant us your peace, Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The gifts of God for the people of God!

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord's face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace. **Amen.**

On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

HYMN

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do you wish to receive communion but are staying home for health reasons? You can receive in one of two ways. First, Pastor Kimberly will be outside the church office following worship today until 11:45. You may drop by to receive outside—you don't even need to leave your car. Communion elements can also be brought to you at home—please call Pastor Kimberly at 724-283-2378 so she can speak with you about how best to do that.

Are you or anyone you know suffering particular stress with the quarantine? There is a listening ear available. Please call Pr. Kimberly on her cell phone or at the church office (724-283-2378) to arrange an appointment.

As you are able, please continue to support First English's ministry financially during this time. Your gifts allow our ministry to continue. You can mail offerings into the church office (241 N. Main Street, Butler PA 16001) or give online at <http://firstenglishbutler.org/giving/>.

PRAYERS

David and Emma Lee Hartle, Edgar Nieto, Larry Hamil, Edna Hartman, Graham Cannon, the family of Hailey Matheson, Ryan, Forest and Marietta White, Christine Pflugh, Audrey Fleeger, Asyiah, the family of Nancy, the family of Jean Purvis, Joyce Hall, Bruni Bilowich, Karen Vavro, The family of Daniel Meggs, Doug Horner, the family of Anthony Rieder, Sandy, Randy, the family of Chris Matthews, the family of Marsha Codisport, the family of Barb Schneidmiller, Lisa, Wendy, the family of Gary Cooper, Rhonda, Judy M., the family of Jean Wiles, Mary Ellen, Claudia, Karen, Aryl Bashline, Kitty Walker, Hope & Bruce Keeler, the family of Dennis Steighner, Gina Ambrosio, Elizabeth, Jena Wright, Tad Sellers, the family of Sam Egan, Ralph D'Antonio.