

The Sower and the Seed



Consider the following options to center yourself for worship:

BREATHING PRAYER: (Psalm 119:105)

*In For A Count Of 4: **Your Word Is A Lamp ...***

*Out For A Count Of 4: **... A Light To My Path***

REFLECT ON QUOTE

As stewards of God's gifts of life, our first job is to delight in God's extravagance and then to scatter it with wild abandon.

~ "Radical Gratitude," www.umfnw.org

READ SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 12, 2026

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

PRELUDE

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Jerry Bursch, Piano

arr. Jonathan Reuss

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WELCOME / OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAITH AND SERVICE

Rev. Matt McPhee

*Please rise in body and spirit.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Amanda Burr

The Lord is the sower of the seeds of love and redemption.

But we have not always been ready to receive these seeds.

Today we hear again the scriptures that remind us of the awesome generosity of God.

Help us be good soil, O God, prepared to receive your love and to grow in that love.

(© Nancy Townley)

*HYMN

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart (vs 1, 3-5)

UMH 500

CCLI / Streaming # 1256912 / 20574634

Song # 2083

1. Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,
and make me love thee as I ought to love.

3. Hast thou not bid me love thee, God and King?
All, all thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.
I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek thee, and O let me find!

4. Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh;
teach me the struggles of the soul to bear.
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh,
teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

5. Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame;
the kindling of the heaven-descended Dove,
my heart an altar, and thy love the flame.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Amanda Burr

Caretaker of our souls, we long for your Word to take root in us, not just to stir us for a moment but to become part of how we live and move in the world. We yearn to be free from all that crowds and

*Please rise in body and spirit.

chokes the life you are growing within us—the pull of status and recognition, the comfort of familiar patterns, the thorns of worry and distraction that silence your voice. Loosen what has grown hard within us and clear the ground of our hearts. Set our minds on the things of the Spirit, that your Word may take root, blossom, and bear abundant fruit in us as followers of Christ. Amen.

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SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 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.

*HYMN:

Wonderful Words of Life

UMH 600

CCLI / Streaming # 1256912 / 20574634

Song # 47392

1. Sing them over again to me,
wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see,
wonderful words of life;
words of life and beauty
teach me faith and duty.

Refrain: Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.

2. Christ, the blessed one, gives to all
wonderful words of life;

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sinner, list to the loving call,
wonderful words of life;
all so freely given,
wooing us to heaven. **(Refrain)**

3. Sweetly echo the gospel call,
wonderful words of life;
offer pardon and peace to all,
wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior,
sanctify forever. **(Refrain)**

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 13:1-9, 18:23

Amanda Burr

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NRSVue)

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. 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. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

“Hear, then, the parable of the sower. 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. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 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. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word

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and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

Pastor Matt

CHORAL RESPONSE

Into My Heart

TFWS 2160

Works and Music: Harry D. Clarke, Public Domain

1 Into my heart, into my heart,
come into my heart, Lord Jesus;
come in today, come in to stay;
come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 Out of my heart, out of my heart,
shine out of my heart, Lord Jesus;
shine out today, shine out alway;
shine out of my heart, Lord Jesus.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

We live out our membership vows by offering our prayers, our presence, our service, our gifts, and our witness. In this way, we glorify God with our whole lives.

OFFERTORY

Down by the Riverside
Jerry Bursch, Piano & Clavinova

arr. Michael Hassell

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*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

CCLI / Streaming: 1256912 / 20574634
CCLI Song # 3063266

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus

*Please rise in body and spirit.

Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Amanda Burr

Creator God, your handiwork surrounds us with wonder. From majestic skies to delicate creatures, all creation reflects your glory. As we bring these gifts, grow in us a spirit of stewardship that we may care for your world with reverence and love.

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*HYMN

You Are The Seed

UMH 583

Words: trans. Raquel Gutiérrez-Achon and Skinner Chavez-Melo, Music: harm. Skinner Chavez-Melo, The United Methodist Publishing House, © 1989, Song # 22560. Permission to reprint, podcast, record audio, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license # A-741822. All rights reserved.

1. You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;
you're a star that will shine in the night;
you are the yeast and a small grain of salt,
a beacon to glow in the dark.
You are the dawn that will bring a new day;
you're the wheat that will bear golden grain;
you are a sting and a soft, gentle touch,
my witnesses where'er you go.

Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;
"Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world."

2. You are the flame that will lighten the dark,
sending sparkles of hope, faith and love;
you are the shepherds to lead the whole world
through valleys and pastures of peace.
You are the friends that I chose for myself,
the word that I want to proclaim.
You are the new kingdom built on a rock
where justice and truth always reign.
Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,

*Please rise in body and spirit.

messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;
“Lo, I’ll be with you forever, till the end of the world.”

3. You are the life that will nurture the plant;
you’re the waves in a turbulent sea;
yesterday’s yeast is beginning to rise,
a new loaf of bread it will yield.
There is no place for a city to hide,
nor a mountain can cover its might;
may your good deeds show a world in despair
a path that will lead all to God.

Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;
“Lo, I’ll be with you forever, till the end of the world.”

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Matt

*HYMN OF PARTING

Shalom to You

CCLI / Streaming # 1256912 / 20574634
Song #1913569

Shalom to you now, shalom my friends.
May God’s full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through all your loving
Christ be your shalom. Christ be your shalom.

POSTLUDE

Praise and Thanks and Adoration
Jerry Bursch, Organ

arr. Jonathan Reuss

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Serving in Worship Today

Greeter: Cathy Bocker
Ushers: Malin Williams & Emma Williams
Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Amanda Burr
Music Director: Jerry Bursch
Pastor: Rev. Matthew M. McPhee

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Video of today's worship can be found at www.indioumc.org/media
Contact the Church Office at 760-347-1046 or office@indioumc.org. Secure online
contributions to the church can be made on our Church App
or at www.indioumc.org/give.

CALENDAR:

July 12 – You are invited to Coffee Fellowship & All Church Meeting after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

July 13—July 17 – **New Day Devotions 8:00 AM** via Zoom. (Link available in weekly e-news or by contacting the office)

July 15—**Tai Chi 10:00 AM** in the Fellowship Hall.

July 17—**Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM** at Sloan's Restaurant in Indio

July 19— **Worship 10:00 AM** in the Sanctuary, followed by Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall.

Stay Connected – Download our App



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