

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Opening Words Isaiah 55: 10-13

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever."

*Hymn "Open My Eyes, That I May See" Hymnal 454

WORDS & MUSIC: Clara H Scott

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!

Welcome

Pastor Scott Clawson

Call to Worship

We gather today in the midst of busy lives and hectic schedules that mirror the chaotic pace of the world around us.

We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.

We gather as people inundated with constant information, fast-moving news cycles, and ever-present alerts vying for our attention.

We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.

We gather as people seeking to anchor ourselves in the faith as the world around us is blown to and fro by waves of fear, scarcity, and reactivity.

We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.

Beloved, come. Come to find rest, grounding, and guidance in the Spirit who dwells in you.

We come to set our minds on the Spirit who guides us and draws us together towards life, peace, and flourishing. Amen.

Hymn "Thy Word is a Lamp" Hymnal 601

Words: Amy Grant, Music: Michael W. Smith, arr. By Keith Phillips

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.
When I feel afraid,
think I've lost my way,

still you're there right beside me,
and nothing will I fear

as long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.
Now I will not forget your love
for me and yet my heart

forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide
and hold me to your side,
and I will love you to the end.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Loving God, you created life in us and all around us. Open us to receive your gifts of your world and your word that we may be not just hearers of the word but doers also.

Prayer of Confession

O God, who loves us, hear our prayer. So often we come to you at a loss – at a loss for the right words, the right deeds, the right feelings. We know all is not right, but we cannot say with certainty what is wrong. There are deep divisions between us and others. There are too many who live in poverty and fear. There are too many horrific stories and not enough hopeful ones. So we pray to you, our Creator and Redeemer, to make things right and to make us right with you and each other. Turn us around from that which destroys towards that which heals and brings joy. And hear us again, as we offer you our confession in silence.

Silent confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, let us proclaim the Good News: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!** Let us go out into the world as people made new by God. **Amen.**

New Testament Reading: Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

The Parable of the Sower

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he

was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.” “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Reckless Grace”

Pastor Scott Clawson

*** Hymn “Wonderful Words of Life” Hymnal 600**

WORDS & MUSIC: Philip P Bliss

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.

Beautiful words,
wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words,
wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.

Christ, the blessed one,
gives to all wonderful words of life;
sinner, list to the loving call,

wonderful words of life;
all so freely given, wooing us to heaven.

Beautiful words,
wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words,
wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.

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

Beautiful words,
wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words,
wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.

Benediction

May the Spirit who dwells in you bless you with open minds to receive God's wisdom. **May the Spirit open hearts to follow God's guidance and open doors that we may together build God's kingdom of life and peace on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Response "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" Hymnal 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heavenly
host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

9:30 AM WORSHIP LEADERS

Lay Reader: Open
Ushers/ Greeters: Lafoon Family

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NMUMC by the Numbers: July 5, 2026

8:15 AM: 14 9:30 AM: 30 11:00 AM: 47 Online: 15 Nursery: 7

Total Offering: \$16,082.00 *Regular Offering:* \$5,980.00*
Food Pantry: \$255.00 Hope4Kids: \$5.00

New Ministry Center: \$6,192.00 Outreach, Hess Family: \$250.00
Parsonage Rent: \$3,150.00 Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$250.00
**Amount Needed to Meet Weekly Budget: \$5,862.53*

Giving Tree Pledge Total: \$1,213,800.00

Commitment Pledges: \$1,003,800.00

Commitment Estate Pledges: \$210,000.00

Non-Pledged Donations: \$52,557

Total Pledges & Non-Pledged Donations: \$1,266,357

Church Meetings

Tuesday, July 14: Morning Bible Study – 10:00 AM – Sanctuary

Tuesday, July 15: Bible 101 – 6:30 PM – ED Building

Fresh Start Service: This service will be held at 8:15 am at Fairview Chapel. (6802 Boyers Mill Rd, New Market 21774) The design for this service is for those who want to get an early start on their Sunday and those who are seeking an alternate worship experience. Acoustic guitar, prayer, a short inspirational message, and Communion will be highlighted. The service is designed to last a half hour. OR join us later for an evening service at 6:00 PM

Daily Devotions Starting July 13th

Monday (7/13)- Genesis 28: 10-19a

How does verse 15 give you hope and comfort? What has God promised to do for us?

Tuesday (7/14)- Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24

If God searched your thoughts and heart today, what would God find? How can you offer these thoughts to God to redeem?

Wednesday (7/15)- Isaiah 44: 6-8

What other gods in your life threaten to take over the number one place of God in your life? How can you re-prioritize your devotion today?

Thursday (7/16)- Psalm 86: 11-17

What lesson or lessons is God teaching you today?

Friday (7/17)- Romans 8: 12-25

What suffering are you experiencing on this day? Pray to God to deliver you from this today?

Saturday (7/18)- Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

What good seeds are sprouting in you today? What “weeds” are threatening to take over?

Sunday (7/19)- Worship in person or online today.

Pastor Scott’s Contact Information: Pastorscott62@gmail.com

240-409-8119 | Summer Office Hours: Thursday | 11 AM-4 PM

**Snowball Mt. Challenge! Vacation Bible School | August 3-7 |
6 PM – 8 PM | Kids ages 3 – 5th grade**

NEW THIS YEAR Adult Class!! This class will run the same date and time as our children’s VBS Join us for one day or the whole week. We will enjoy a lesson, craft, and snack, just like the kids! Follow the QR codes below to register

**KIDS AGE 3-5TH
GRADE**



ADULT CLASS



**YOUTH
6TH- 12TH GRADE**



join us to volunteer!