

# Bulletin August 8, 2021

## *The Kingdom of God is like a Weed?*

Prelude

Welcome & Sharing the Life of the Church

Prayer of Invitation

Lighting of the Candles

### **Call to Worship**

Call: Something so big

**Response: We can't hold it.**

Call: Something so deep

**Response: We can't reach it.**

Call: Yet it beckons.

**Response: It has many names.**

Call: Hope.

**Response: Love.**

Call: Truth.

**Response: Community.**

Call: God is in all of it,

**Response: And God draws us here.**

Call: To feel some light.

**Response: To dwell in some peace.**

Call: To experience some love.

**Response: To sing some joy.**

### **Hymn of Praise: "Blessed Be the God of Israel" p. 209**

WORDS: Michael Perry, 1973 (Lk. 1:68-79) // © 1973 Hope Publishing Co.

#### **1. Blessed be the**

**God of Israel,**

**who comes to set us free,**

**who visits and redeems us,**

**and grants us liberty.**

**The prophets**

**spoke of mercy,**

**of freedom and release;**

**God shall fulfill**

**the promise**

**to bring our people peace.**

#### **2. Now from the**

**house of David**

**a child of grace is given;**

**a Savior comes among us**

**to raise us up to heaven.**

**Before him goes**

**the herald,**

**forerunner in the way,**

**the prophet of salvation,**

**the harbinger of day.**

#### **3. On prisoners**

**of darkness**

**the sun begins to rise,**

**the dawning**

**of forgiveness**

**upon the sinner's eyes,**

**to guide the feet of pilgrims**

**along the paths of peace;**

**O bless our God**

**and Savior**

**with songs that**

**never cease!**

## **Prayer of the Congregation**

**O Holy One, we thank you that we stand in a long line of believers who have been faithful through the ages. You have led your people through trial and difficulty and have always set before them hope for today and hope for a better tomorrow. We pray that you would bless us in our time as we seek to be as faithful as those who came before us.**

- **Give to us a faith like the grain of mustard seed, which had small beginnings but which yielded large results.**
- **Give to us the faith to move the mountains of difficulty which come to each of us.**
- **Give to us the faith that sees a distant goal and is willing to work to achieve it.**
- **Give to us a faith such as Abraham and Sarah's to move forward not knowing our destination but trusting in your guiding providence.**
- **Give to us a faith which is able to endure those moments of personal disquiet and to trust that you are with us.**
- **Give to us a faith which sees the welfare of humankind as our business because it is the focus of your enduring love for your people.**

**God, give us faith to walk with you through the ebb and flow and the victories and the defeats of life and to achieve victory and mastery of life. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

Concerns & Celebrations & Lord's Prayer

Young Disciples' Time

Tithes & Offerings/ Offertory/ *Doxology*

UMH # 95

## **Hymn of Preparation "There's Something About That Name" p.171**

WORDS: Gloria Gaither and William J. Gaither, 1970

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!**

**There's just something  
about that name!**

**Master, Savior, Jesus!**

**Like the fragrance  
after the rain.**

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!**

**Let all heaven  
and earth proclaim:  
Kings and kingdoms  
shall all pass away,  
but there's something  
about that name!**

## **Written Word of the Lord:**

**Old Testament: Joshua 1:6-9** "6 Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. 7 Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. 9 I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

**Epistle: I Thessalonians 5:12-18** “<sup>12</sup> But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; <sup>13</sup> esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. <sup>14</sup> And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. <sup>15</sup> See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup> abstain from every form of evil.”

**Gospel: Matthew 17:19-20** “<sup>19</sup> Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” <sup>20</sup> He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”

## **Spoken Word – Like a Mustard Seed**

**Holy Communion** (*Early Service Only*)

**Hymn of Commitment: “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” p.196**

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744

**1. Come, thou  
long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.**

**2. Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious  
kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all  
sufficient merit,  
raise us to  
thy glorious throne.**

**Benediction**