

July 12, 2020
Christ Lutheran, Cottonwood

Welcome to Worship!

*Wherever, whenever, and in whatever way you gather;
the Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

Online **YouTube** link - [**https://youtu.be/Kvyflv28gqY**](https://youtu.be/Kvyflv28gqY)

Cable Station 180 - Sundays at 10:45 a.m. and Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

Drive Up – AM Radio Station 1650 - Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in front of the church building. There will be a limited number of printed bulletins, plus the bulletin is available online.

If you have joined us for Drive Up Worship this morning, we ask for the safety and comfort of all that you adhere to these guidelines:

- *If you are sick, please stay home.*
- *If you feel unsafe, worship will continue online and on the cable station.*
- *If weather is not conducive to “Drive Up” worship, please find the links emailed to you and cable station (Sundays at 10:45 a.m. and Mondays at 4:30 p.m.)*
- *Someone will guide you to park your vehicle. Please be patient as we learn what works best and the number of vehicles that may come.*
- *Each household must be in a separate vehicle and once you arrive do not exit your vehicles. You will be asked to only roll down windows on the driver’s side of the vehicles to maintain a safe distance between each vehicle.*
- *Please use the restroom before you arrive as we are unable to provide them for public use during the service.*
- *Offering can be left in a box in the church round-about as you leave.*



Time after Pentecost

July 12, 2020

Christ Lutheran Church
Cottonwood, Minnesota

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world. (from Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2019)

GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.
Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.*

Prelude

"My Faith Has Found a Resting Place"

Brenda Olson

Words of Welcome

P: This is the day the Lord has made,

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Words of Faith adapted from Psalm 65

P: O Lord, you visit the earth and water it; you enrich the soil to make things grow.

C: Bring forth your kingdom, O Lord, and let us sing and shout for joy.

P: You provide for your people with food from the earth; it is you who has prepared our bounty.

C: Bring forth your kingdom, O Lord, and let us sing and shout for joy.

P: All nature is aglow with your beauty. The hills display your glory; the fields overflow with your bounty; the meadows clothe themselves with flocks.

C: Bring forth your kingdom, O Lord, and let us sing and shout for joy.

P: And by your awesome power, you have delivered your people and crowned them with salvation. You are the hope for all the ends of the earth.

C: Bring forth your kingdom, O Lord, and let us sing and shout for joy.

Words of Confession and Forgiveness

P: We gather in the name of the Father, and the Son, † and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin, to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

(Silence for a time of self-reflection)

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another. Most merciful God,

All: 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 have delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Hear the Good News: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we were still sinners; and for his sake, God † forgives us all our sins.

All: Amen. Thanks be to God.

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Almighty God,

C: 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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

New Testament Reading Romans 8:1-11

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.

P: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

Pastor Janel Kuester

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are as follows:

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson
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Profession of Faith using the words of the 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 God's People

The congregation responds to the prayer petitions with, "hear our 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

SENDING

God sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

P: God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

C: Amen.

Greetings of Peace and Sending

P: Peace be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Jesus, Lord To Me"

Brenda Olson

NEWS! Beginning Wednesday, July 15, at 7:00 p.m. – a short meditative prayer service will be offered each Wednesday evening. See Preparedness Plan in the July newsletter for details.

**Organist and/or Pianist
— *Position Opening* —
Christ Lutheran Church**

Christ Lutheran is seeking a part-time organist and/or pianist to accompany hymns and sung liturgy for one Sunday service each week, in addition to seasonable services for Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Midweek Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and other special services including funerals and weddings. This position involves piano accompaniment for special music groups.

Musical style is traditional with an emphasis on hymns, but would be open to other styles of music. Paid on a per-service or per-event basis.

View the full position description at the church website at www.christcottonwood.org

Submit cover letter and resume to christlutheran@christcotton.com

Thank you to Brenda Olson for serving as our Musician for this Worship Service, July 12.

Widowed, divorced or separated? Beginning Experience (BE) of SW MN/ Marshall, a peer ministry support group for widowed, separated and divorced people, is offering its "Coping With Life Alone" Series for ten weeks beginning July 13 at 6:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in Marshall. COVID Safety Guidelines will be followed. Contact us: swmnbe@gmail.com or Tim 507-530-6379 or MaryAnn 507-828-2866

Worship Options, Time After Pentecost, Sunday, July 12

- 1. YouTube Link:** <https://youtu.be/Kvyflv28gqY>
- 2. This Bulletin is posted at our website christcottonwood.org AND emailed weekly. If you are not on our email list but would like to be, please email Rhoda:
christlutheran@christcotton.com)**
- 3. Local Cable Channel 180 – Sunday at 10:45 a.m. and Monday at 4:30 p.m.**
- 4. “Drive Up” Worship at the front of the church building at 9:30 on Sunday mornings**
- 5. Worship in the Sanctuary on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 beginning July 15. Please see the Preparedness Plan Summary in the July newsletter for details.**

Visit our congregation's website for updated information as it becomes available:

<http://www.christcottonwood.org/>

Don't forget to give us a **"Like" on Facebook** - Christ Lutheran Church Cottonwood MN

Thank you - The ministry to which God has called us is continuing in differing ways. We are grateful for your ongoing financial offerings that can be mailed to the church (P.O. Box 166, Cottonwood, MN 56229) or given online **with the following link:** <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1600>

Prayer Requests

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:6-7 to, “*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*” Your prayers are a gift to those requesting them, and encouragement for one another as we experience challenges, sorrows, or thanksgivings of any kind.

Health Concerns, as well as Others In Our Hearts and On Our Minds:

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Landyn Berends | Mark Bode | Norm Evers | Gordy Geistfeld |
| Gail Gregoire | Bruce Hoffman | Tara (Wisdorf) Iyer | Grant Johnson |
| Bob Kaeter | Teri Kemmer | Cole Louwagie | Pr. Curt Miller |
| Jori Ella Morrison | Gretchen Noon | Savannah Rausch | Joyce St. Pierre |
| Harvey Suer | Kelsey Sullivan | Rosie Varpness | Gary Vossen |

All those dealing with illness, addictions, depression, unemployment, under-employment, and any challenges in their lives.

Independent Living/Assisted Living/Care Center Residents/Homebound:

Shi Aamodt, Arvilla Berg, Bob Bode, Darleen Cole, Michele Engholm, Elaine Elston, Irene Evers, Norm Evers, Marge Gigstad, Janet Gniffke, Adrian Golberg, Julie Jaeger, Marietta Jarcho, Betty Lovsness, Lila Mauland, Laurie Pickthorn, Donna Neuharth, Bobby Olson, Alnora Pederson, Margaret Rewerts, Marge Seitz

Families of our Congregation.

Harold and Marian Kalass
Chris and Sara Keleher, Jerrika, Evelyn, Gaige, Benen
Andy and Jessica Wagner-Knuth, Harrison

Workers in Other Countries, Missionaries, and Local Congregation Missions.

Kikatiti Secondary School Students and Staff in Tanzania

If you have questions, concerns, or pastoral needs, please contact us:

Pastor Janel Kuester - 651.726.4003 (cell) (pstrjanel@gmail.com)

Congregational President Scott Boehne - 507.829.1226 (cell)
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