



Living by Faith, Known by Love, A Voice of Hope



First Church in Windsor, UCC

**Communion Sunday
Sunday, August 1, 10 a.m.**

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed.

People: It is a small seed, but it has some surprises in store for us.

Leader: When it is grown, it is a very large shrub. Even the birds can find places in its branches for their nests.

People: God's transforming love begins in small ways to enter our hearts.

Leader: Make us people who care deeply about the well-being of others. Give us courage to be yeast for the rising of hope and peace throughout the world.

People: God, plant those amazing seeds of transforming love in us that they may grow into deeds of service to others in your name. Amen.

Hymn

God of the Fertile Fields

Words by Georgia Harkness

Music by Felice de Giardini

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**God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread;
Forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,
That all in every land be clothed and fed.**

**We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you all that you give;
Help us in love to share, teach us like you to care
For people everywhere, that all may live.**

**As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need, your reign yet grows.
So let our toil be used, no gift of yours abused,
No humble task refused your love bestows.**

**God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died to make us one;
We pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you;
Guide all we say and do, till life is done.**

Prayer of Invocation

Holy God, you teach us that our faith is not our own, but that it is meant to reach those around us. Let our growing faith be a light that we don't hide under a bushel, but instead let shine to the rest of creation. We are all your beloved children, God, so help us to use what faith we have to care for those around us. Amen.

Prayer of our Savior

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Children's Moment

Scripture

Matthew 13: 31-32

Jesus put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a person took and sowed in their field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.

Sermon

Pastor Peter

"Faith in a Seed: Outgrowing Ourselves"

Hymn

Come to Tend God's Garden

Words by John Dulles

Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams

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**Come to tend God's garden, seeds of hope to sow,
Planting fields of justice, watching mercy grow!
In an arid wasteland, spread a verdant heath!
In a land of tumult, cultivate God's peace!**

**As we tend God's garden, from its furrows rise
Stems of fresh beginnings, stretching toward the skies!
Graciousness, our meadow, joyfulness, our root,
Unity, our foliage, righteousness, our fruit!**

**May God's garden flourish, may our toil succeed,
May God bless our actions, every word and deed!
Serving Christ each season, with God's diagram,
Charted by the Spirit, for the task at hand!**

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Words and music by Handt Hanson

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**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Where love is grown and peace is understood.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Communion Response

Seed, Scattered and Sown

Words and music by Dan Feiten

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Holy God, as we prepare to leave this space and go out into the world,
let us be transformed by this holy sacrament.**

Let it nourish our hearts to be more tender,

Let it nourish our lips to be more kind,

And let it nourish our faith, so that our seed can grow into something more.

Send us out, God, into a chaotic world, ministering love and hope to all whom we encounter.

Amen

Announcements

Offering Plates are on the tables back of the church. We encourage you to give online [here](#).

Benediction

Postlude

Lyric Piece

Edvard Grieg

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