

February 22nd, 2015  
First Sunday of Lent

# THE PARABLES OF LENT

RECEIVE THE WORD

THE PARABLE *of the*  
SOWER *and the* SEED



The Federated Church of Paxton  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service



## Sharing of Joys, News, Concerns

## Prayer

## Silent Meditation

## Prelude

### \*Bringing in the Light of Christ

\*Opening Hymn      *"To Bless the Earth"*

PH, #200

### \*Opening Prayer

**One:** In this holy season the Son of God humbles himself so that we receive mercy.

**All: Humble me once again, O God, that my life would be pleasing and acceptable to you.**

**One:** In this holy season the Son of God spreads the seed of his Word over our hearts.

**All: Make our hearts the good soil, O God, that receives your Word and produces fruit that lasts.**

**One:** In this holy season the Son of God enters into his Passion and death so that we are exalted.

**All: Grant me your grace, O God, that my faith in Jesus would be pleasing and acceptable to you.**

**Let us listen to our Savior as his parables unfold,  
Learning what he has to teach us, bearing fruit a hundredfold.  
May the vast world's cares and pleasures,  
Doubts and lies from Satan heard,  
Never turn us from the Word. As this seed is sown among us,  
May our ears and hearts be found to be fresh and fruitful ground.**

### Confession and Absolution

**One:** Our hearts are not always fertile ground for the planting of the Word of God. Let us confess the sins of our hearts and lives to our Lord who hears and forgives:

**All: Most merciful God, we confess that our very nature is sinful. Our hearts are too often the "path" where Satan comes and snatches away what has been sown. Our hearts are too often the "rocky ground" where trial and difficulty make us fall away. Our hearts are too often the "thorns" that choke God's Word and keep it from being fruitful. Our hearts are sinful and selfish, pushing away**

**the grace of God and growing only sin and deceit. It is proven in our wicked thoughts, words and deeds. Forgive us, most holy God.**

**One:** The Lord Jesus came into this world with a heart that was perfect soil. He never sinned and always adhered to the Word of his Heavenly Father. His perfect life, crushing crucifixion and glorious resurrection mean complete forgiveness for the sins of our hearts and lives. Because his heart and life were “perfect soil” for us, all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Sermon Hymn**

We listen as the Word like scattered seed is sown,  
For as each parable is heard Christ’s kingdom is made known.

On soil of every kind the precious seed we sow  
That in good soil the Word might find a place to thrive and grow.

In ev’ry time of need, before the judgment throne,  
Your work, O Lamb of God, I’ll plead, your merits, not my own.

**Old Testament Reading**      Jeremiah 7:1-7

**Epistle Reading**      Colossians 1:3-14

### **Anthem**

**\*Gospel Reading**      Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23

### **Message**

### **Offering**

**Petitions** *Let each petition end with the following response:*

**One:** Sower of the seeds,

**All: make your world take root and grow.**

### **\*Closing Hymn**

Almighty God, your Word is cast like seed into the ground;  
Now let the dew of heav’n descend and righteous fruits abound.

Let not the sly satanic foe this holy seed remove,  
But give it root in ev’ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world’s deceitful cares the rising plant destroy,  
But let it yield a hundredfold the fruits of peace and joy.

So when the precious seed is sown, life-giving grace bestow  
That all whose souls the truth receive its saving pow’r may know.

### **\*Benediction**

### **\*Postlude**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Today, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Adult Sunday School, 9:00am

Confirmation, 9:00am

Youth Sunday School, 9:30am

Worship, 10:00am

PHCR Srvc, 1:30pm (Elder, Jackie Roy)

## **Monday, February 23<sup>d</sup>**

March Newsletter Deadline

## **Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**

Office Hours, Noon - 4pm

Soup, 6:00pm

Devotions, 6:30pm

Choir Practice, 7:00pm

## **Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

Office Hours, 8am-Noon

## **Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**

Adult Sunday School, 9:00am

Confirmation, 9:00am

Youth Sunday School, 9:30am

Worship, 10:00am

## February

Birthdays & Anniversaries

3rd - Russ & Nancy Taylor Ann.

6th - Eric Funk

9th - Laura Adkins

10th - Maxine Anderson

25th - Robin Niewold



**Greeters Liturgists Ushers Elders**

February - Rhodes & Lawrence

March - Funks

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This lent I wanted to fast by giving up something I truly love, and I am a huge fan of fasting

***Lord, We ask thanksgiving, comfort, healing and faith for these friends and family members***

Janet Goudy, David Clampitt, Kevin Rossler, Mike Johnsen, Gayle Dunahee, Matthew Swearingen, Barb Legener, Ann Cofel

***Homebound or in Adult Health Care Facilities***

Sue Moore, Donald Rhodes, Jani Fraim, Marcella Woodworth

**For the month of February, please bring peanut butter, soup & crackers for the Food Pantry.**

***As always, all non-perishable food items are welcomed.***

**Pastor Colleen Lawrence, Minister**

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**Organist - Priscilla Andreae**