

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost



July 12, 2020
10:30 AM

Join us for our livestream at <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit/>
or <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ>
Zoom Coffee Hour: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>



Everyone is welcome. As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

Zoom Children's Time is on hiatus during the month of July.

Evening Prayer: Wednesdays at 7:00 PM on both our [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.

Hymns of Faith: Wednesdays at 10:30 AM. Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/97268221619>.

Worship Live Stream at 10:30 AM on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit or our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ to see the livestream or access the video archive. **Worship bulletins** are located: <https://www.stjohnssummit.org/bulletins>.

Giving Is Important. We count on your generous offerings to continue to do our robust ministry. Please give generously. You may [give online](#) or mail checks to the church.

Ministers: The People of St. John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Gladys G. Moore, Pastor

pastorggmoore@stjohnssummit.org

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

pastorbcalet@stjohnssummit.org

Donna Garzinsky, Director of Music

dgarzinsky@stjohnssummit.org

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

crothman@stjohnssummit.org

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

wk154linda@gmail.com

The Rev. Dr. Harry Kocotos, Visitation Pastor

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery

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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
587 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901
www.stjohnssummit.org
908-273-3846 | Fax: 908-273-9604

We're delighted you're worshipping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

**Today's service is being provided by our church camp,
Cross Roads Camp & Retreat Center.**

**Announcements for
July 12, 2020**

In-Person Worship: We will begin having ~30-minute in-person worship services every other **Sunday at 7 PM beginning July 19**. Please bring your own chairs--spots will be marked on the front lawn. Masks must be worn and social distance must be observed. Restricted bathroom usage. At-risk individuals or anyone feeling unwell, should not attend. Please use discretion. You **need to RSVP** so that we can plan for attendance [here](#).

Virtual VBS: Everyone--of ALL ages--is invited to our Virtual VBS! We will be holding a 5-day program on Facebook Live and Zoom, **July 20--24 from 5:00--6:15 PM**. This is completely free and open to all--tell your friends and family. Please register [here](#). We need help; volunteer [here](#).

Hinman Scholarship: We have funds available to support our college students. Access the application [here](#). Applications must be submitted by **August 1** to Linda.Mesenbrink@verizon.net.

Plastic Bag Collection: Due to the pandemic, we are no longer collecting plastic bags.

Need Fair Trade Chocolate, Coffee or Tea? Contact [Jane Bowman](#) to make arrangements.

Summer Music: Covid-19 has changed the kinds of music normally offered at St. John's during the summer. Singers and woodwind and brass instrumentalists are welcome to offer "virtual" music or music that you record in your home. Virtual music would be included in prerecorded worship services. String instrumentalists, handbell ringers, and percussionists can participate in offering live music during worship this summer. For more information, contact Donna Garzinsky.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Please give generously to the emergency fund sponsored by the Summit Interfaith Council to help Summit immigrant neighbors adversely affected by COVID-19. You may make your tax-deductible donation to the Relief Fund [here](#), by either check or PayPal. Checks should be made out to and mailed to Beacon UU Congregation in Summit, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit, NJ 07901.

Social Ministry Highlight: Lutheran Social Ministry of New Jersey Backpacks

LSM has asked only for financial contributions this year to minimize the risk of COVID infection. LSM will purchase and assemble the backpacks themselves. A completed backpack costs approximately \$35, and we hope to match last year's collection of at least 65 backpacks. Participate virtually by making financial contributions throughout the month of July and the beginning of August. To participate, please click <https://forms.gle/wjWYCme11qDWXsD77> to pledge your contribution. All pledges must be paid by check or [online](#), include "LSM Backpacks" in the memo line before **August 9**. We will report the progress towards our goal weekly!

CROSS ROADS

CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

Cross Roads Camp Sunday Sunday, July 12, 2020

GATHERING

Welcome and Invocation

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it (*Psalm 24:1*)
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Three in One, we welcome you to
worship.

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. First, let us use one of our camp
confessions and then we will pray using words familiar to many of us.

Whisper Box Confession

Prayer

Let us pray. Most merciful God, we confess that 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. We are
truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us
and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your
name. **Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal
life. **Amen.**

Gathering Song: "Fill My Cup"

Apostolic Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

Creator God, we thank you for planting the seed of your Word within us. Help us to grow
every day in faith, hope, and love. By your Holy Spirit, help us to learn your ways of love
and give us the will to follow you all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-12

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
¹²For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Song: "Shout to the Lord"

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

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."

Sermon: Anthony Briggs, Executive Director

Apostles' Creed

Let us confess our faith first using the words of the Apostles' Creed and then by singing together, "I Believe, I Do Believe":

**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.**

Song: "I Believe, I Do Believe"

Prayers of Intercession

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

Gracious God, your word has been sown in many ways and places. We pray for the Christians everywhere, and especially for The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Inspire us by their witness to the faith we share. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, the mountains and hills burst into song and the trees and fields clap their hands in praise. We pray for the birds and animals who make their home in the trees, and for lands stripped bare by deforestation. Empower us to sustainably use what you have given and to cherish your beautiful creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reigning God, we pray for our nation's leaders. Increase their desire for justice and equality. We pray for our enemies. Bridge the chasms that divide us and guide authorities to a deep and lasting peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, care for all who are in need. For those who are doubting, renew faith. For those who are worrying, provide release. For those who are struggling, ease burdens. For those in fear, give hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Renewing God, revive your Church. Nourish and nurture the seeds you have planted, that we might grow as disciples. Replace what has been depleted. We pray today for the ministry of Cross Roads Camp, bless our Executive Director, the staff, our camp families, and our partner congregations. Sustain our ministries and deepen relationships within the community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for all who have died. Comfort us in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Sharing of the Peace

Call for the Offering

Song: "Light the Fire"

SENDING

Blessing

May God prepare your journey, Jesus guide your footsteps, the Spirit strengthen your body, the Three in One watch over you on every road that you may follow. **Amen.**

Sending Song: "My Lighthouse"

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God and we will!**

Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center is a welcoming and inclusive community providing life changing and sacred adventures for renewal, growth, and joy. Cross Roads is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark and the New Jersey Synod of the ELCA, and accredited by the American Camp Association.

To learn more about Cross Roads, visit www.crossroadsretreat.com.

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>

CROSS ROADS CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER



CAMP AT CAMP

ON-SITE CABIN RENTALS FOR FAMILIES

Due to COVID-19, Cross Roads has cancelled our residential summer camp. However, our facilities are open and available for families to rent! Come for an overnight or stay up to a week in God's creation. Details on amenities available on the website.



EVERGREEN

\$35/night



OAKWOOD

\$40/night



CHRIST CENTER

\$50/night



LOG CABIN

\$75/night



BEISLER CENTER

\$90/night

**EACH RENTAL
INCLUDES ACCESS TO A
FIRE RING, FIRE WOOD,
AND A PICNIC TABLE**

**RESTROOM FACILITIES
VARY PER BUILDING**

**MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE
WWW.CROSSROADSRETREAT.COM**





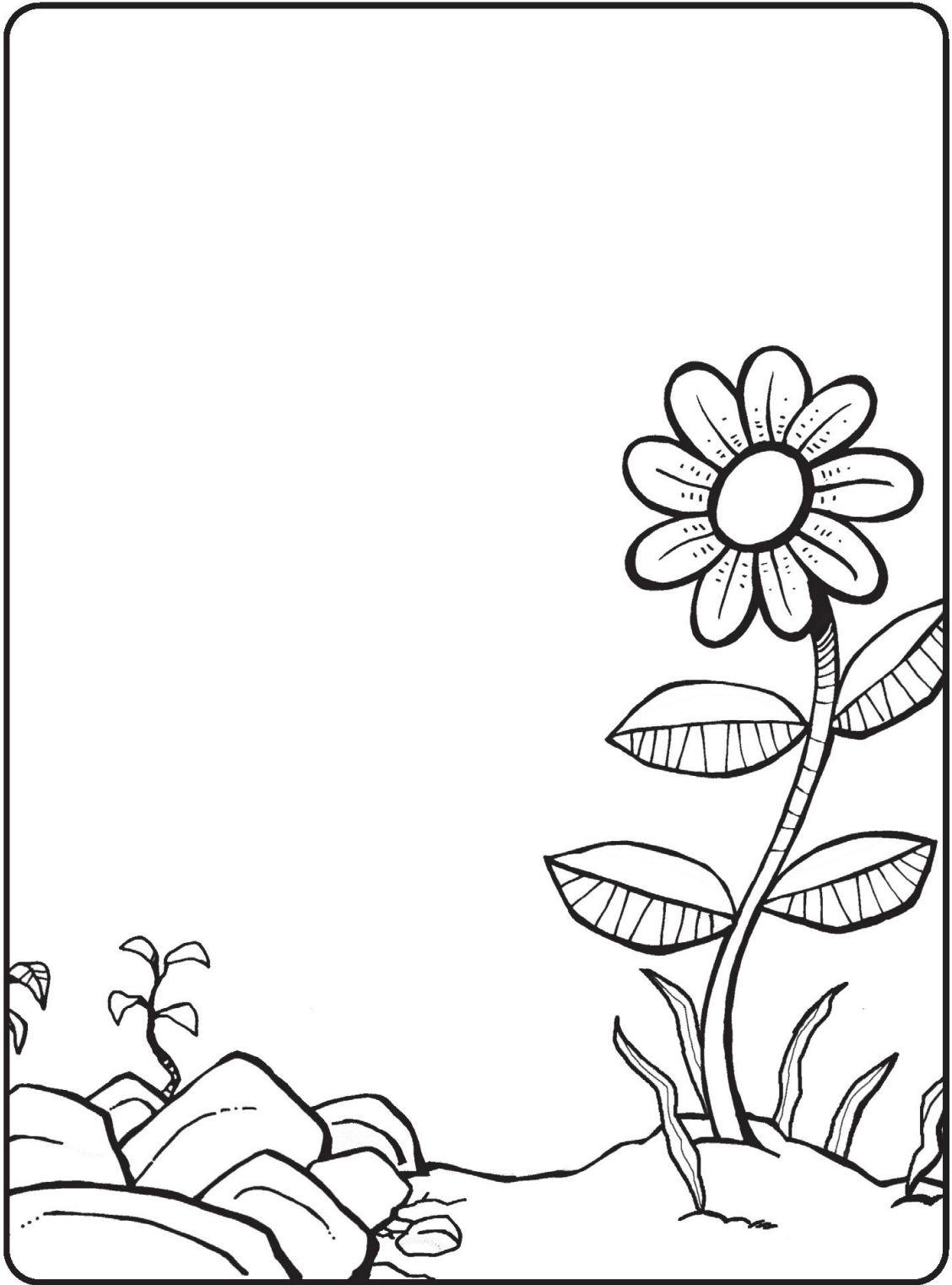
PRE-READER

Pentecost 6

- Today is the **6th Sunday** after Pentecost.
 - The **color** for Pentecost is **green**.
 - We look for ways our **faith** can **come alive** during this **season**.
-

**Color this tree green to make it look alive.
Add some flowers and plants under the tree.**





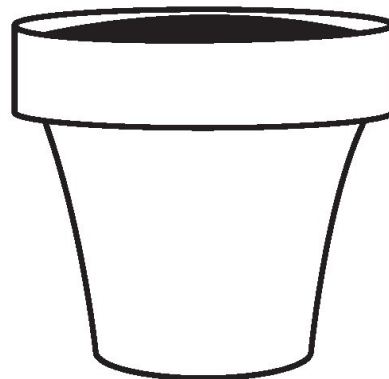
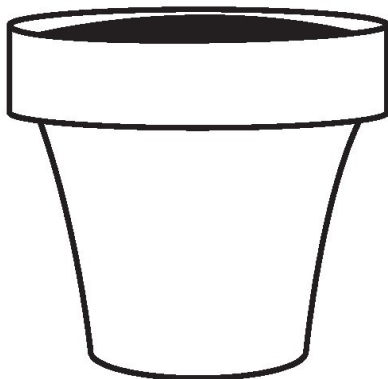
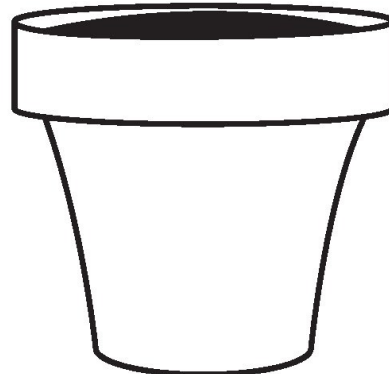
**But many people will listen, and God's
Word will grow in them.**



Today's story is about God's Word growing in us like a plant grows in soil.

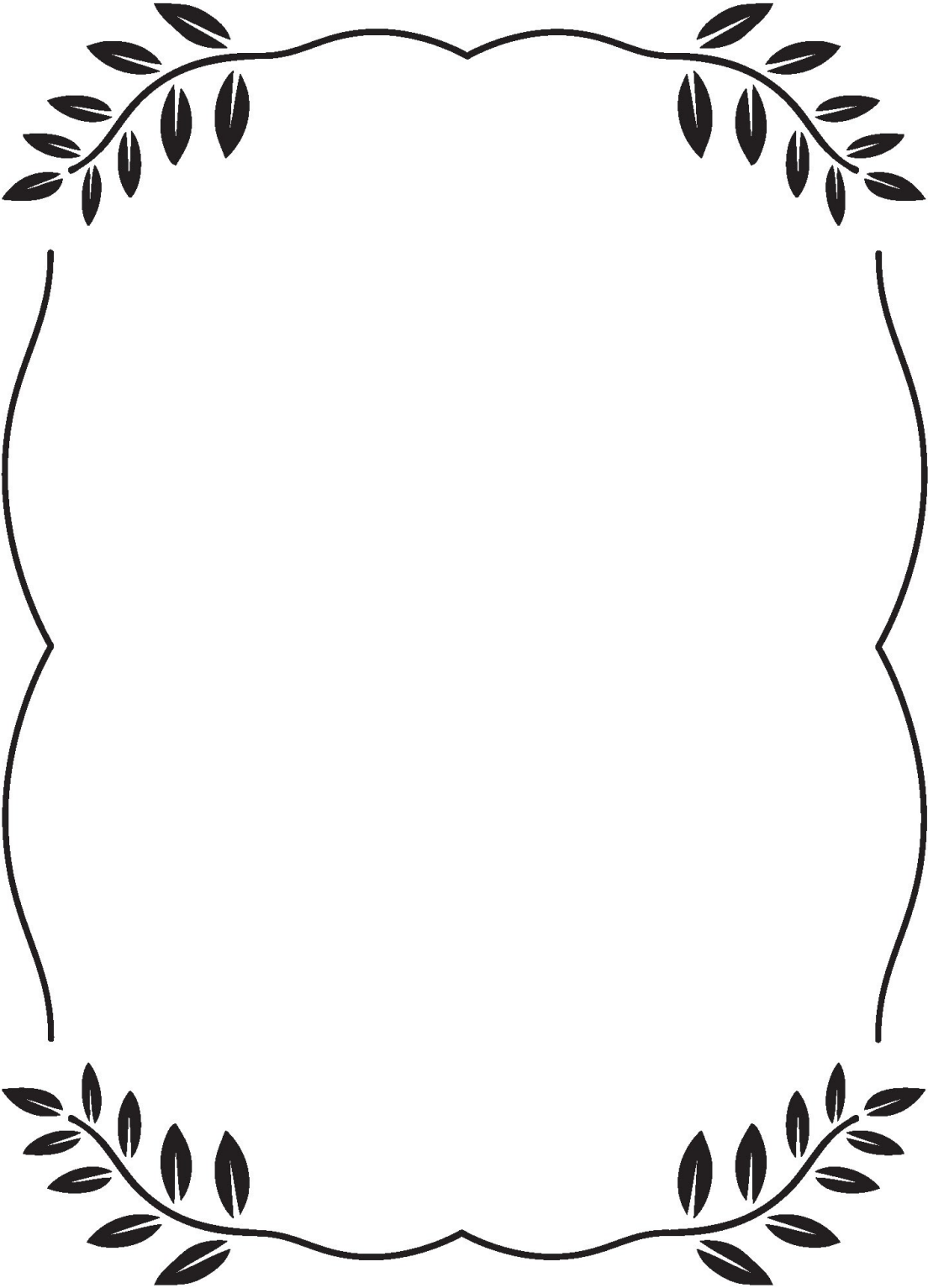


In each pot draw the plant a little bigger to show how it grows.



Are there flowers, trees, or plants in your worship space today?

Draw them here.





READER

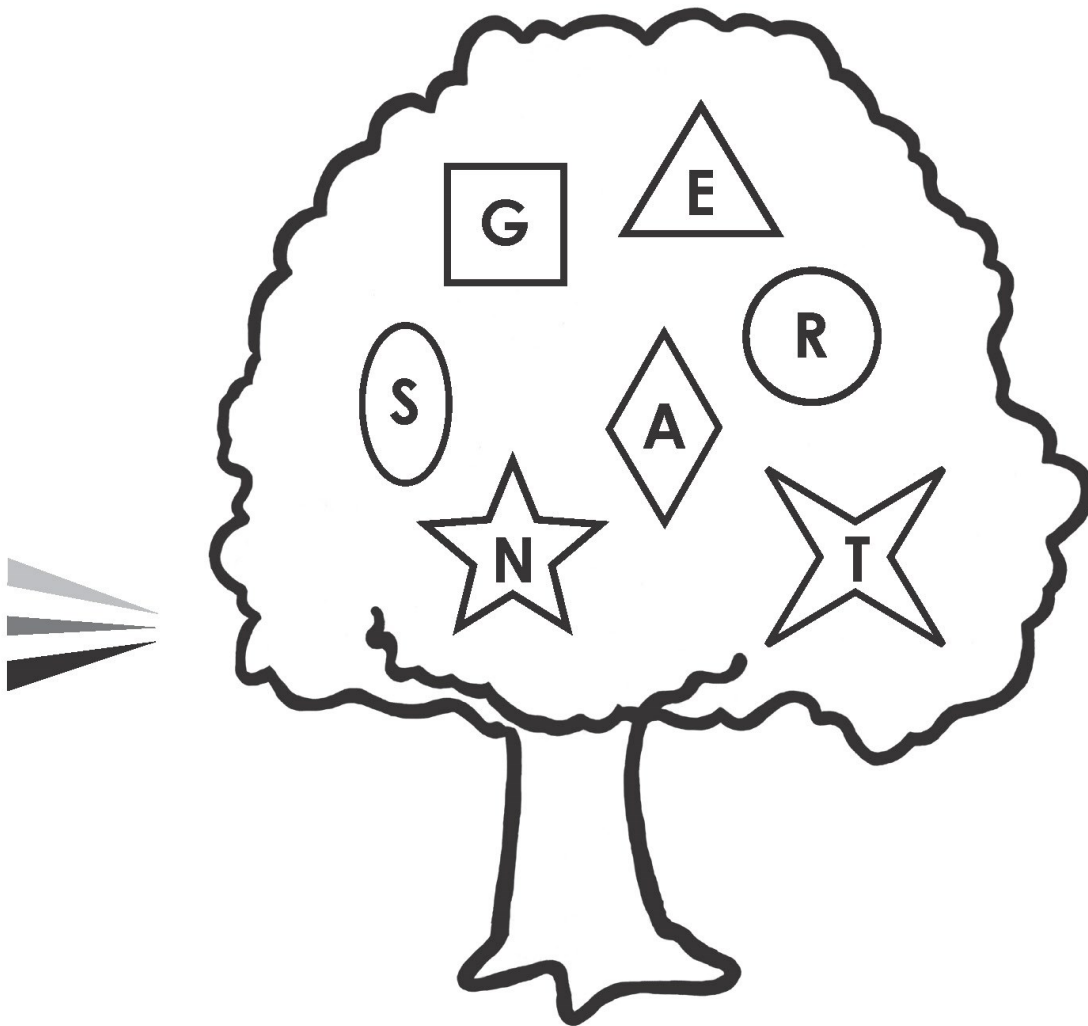
Pentecost 6

- Today is the **sixth** Sunday after Pentecost.
- The time after Pentecost is all about **life** and **growth**.

Color Quiz

The color for this season reminds us of life and growth. Look for clues in the tree to solve the puzzle!

The color for the season after Pentecost is: _____



Here is a trick to remember this week's memory verse: Add actions to the words!

Memory Verse



But as for what was sown on good soil (**touch the ground**), this is the one who hears (**touch your ears**) the word and understands it (**touch your head**).

Matthew 13:23a



Finding Good Soil

Jesus told a story about seeds growing into grain. As you listen to the Gospel, draw seeds in the places Jesus talks about. Draw a circle around the seeds that will really grow!



The places with larger bold text in your Bible are called headings. Use the headings to get a hint about what each section is about.



Today's Gospel story is a parable about seeds and growing. Look up Matthew 13:31-32 to read another parable about a seed.



Sermon Notes

The sermon is the part of worship when the pastor talks about the Bible story. This is a time to learn and hear God's word.

Listen to the sermon today, and write down something you learned.

