

# Eighth Sunday After Pentecost



July 26, 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.

**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](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit) or our YouTube Channel at [www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ](http://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ) **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

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

Donna Garzinsky, Director of Music

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

The Rev. Dr. Harry Kocotos, Visitation Pastor

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery

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**July 26, 2020**

**In-Person Worship on August 2:** Join us for ~30-minute in-person worship services every other **Sunday at 7:00 PM**. 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](#).

**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.

**St. John's Anti-Racism Committee Book Club Dialogue:** Our next book comes in both an adult and young adult version, so choose the version that fits you best. We hope that families will read this book together. The adult book, *Stamped from the Beginning* is by Ibram X. Kendi. The authors of the young adult version titled, *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* are Kendi and Jason Reynolds. The discussion will take place via ZOOM on Tuesdays, August 18, 25 and September 1 at 5:00 PM. On August 18 we'll discuss Parts 1 and 2; on August 25 we'll discuss Parts 3 and 4; and on September 1 we'll discuss Part 5 and the Epilogue. Contact the church office if you'd like a copy of the book but can't purchase it yourself. Please RSVP if you plan to join us at [staff@stjohnssummit.org](mailto:staff@stjohnssummit.org).

**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 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. A completed backpack costs approximately \$35, and we hope to match last year's collection of at least 65 backpacks. We have collected 24 backpacks to date. Pledge your contribution at <https://forms.gle/wjWYCme11qDWXsD77> All pledges must be paid by check or [online](#), include "LSM Backpacks" in the memo line before **August 9**.

## Prayer Before Worship

Spirit of life, we do not know how to pray as we ought. Meet us in words written, in words spoken; intercede for us with sighs too deep for words, until we shine with the hope that is hidden in our hearts, for we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 2*

## Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**PRELUDE** “A Bell Canon”

By Donna J. Garzinsky (b. 20<sup>th</sup> C.)

Linda Clark and Kim Kanefke, ringers

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**Most merciful God, 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 delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

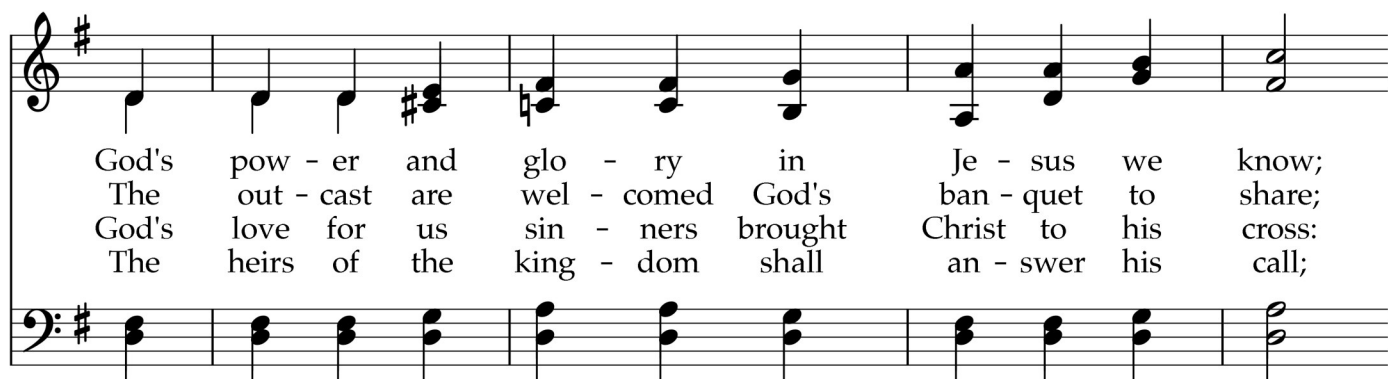
# GATHERING HYMN The Kingdom of God



1. The king - dom of God is jus - tice and joy;  
2. The king - dom of God is mer - cy and grace;  
3. The king - dom of God is chal - lenge and choice:  
4. God's king - dom is come, the gift and the goal;



For Je - sus re - stores what sin would de - stroy.  
The cap - tives are freed, the sin - ners find place.  
Be - lieve the good news, re - pent and re - joice!  
In Je - sus be - gun, in heav - en made whole.



God's pow - er and glo - ry in Je - sus we know;  
The out - cast are wel - comed God's ban - quet to share;  
God's love for us sin - ners brought Christ to his cross:  
The heirs of the king - dom shall an - swer his call;



And here and here - af - ter the king - dom shall grow.  
And hope is a - wak - ened in place of de - spair.  
Our cri - sis of judg - ment for gain or for loss.  
And all things cry "Glo - ry!" to God all in all.

## 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

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Word

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

## READING Romans 8:26–39

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*The reader concludes:* The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

**HANDBELL ANTHEM** Setting of *Lyons*

Virtual Bell Choir

By Sondra K. Tucker (b. 1957)

## Psalm 119:129–136

*Spoken responsively*

- <sup>129</sup>Your decrees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
- <sup>130</sup>**When your word is opened it gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.**
- <sup>131</sup>I open my mouth and pant  
because I long for your commandments.
- <sup>132</sup>**Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as you always do to those who love your name.**
- <sup>133</sup>Order my footsteps in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
- <sup>134</sup>**Rescue me from those who oppress me,  
and I will keep your commandments.**
- <sup>135</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant  
and teach me your statutes.
- <sup>136</sup>**My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your teaching.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 174 Celtic Alleluia

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Celtic Alleluia. Both staves are in the treble clef and the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style with a mix of eighth and quarter notes, often beamed together. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker  
Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.  
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## **GOSPEL** Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

<sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

<sup>44</sup>”The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>”Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>”Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>”Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

*The gospel is proclaimed, concluding:* The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**





## HYMN OF THE DAY Seek Ye First

*Descant*

Al - le - lu - ia, al -

*Melody*

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and its  
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek, and  
3. You shall not live by bread a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - - le -

righteous - ness, and all these things shall be  
you shall find; knock, and the door shall be  
ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

lu - - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
mouth of God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: st. 1, Matt. 6:33, adapt. Karen Lafferty, b. 1948; st. 2, Matt. 7:7; st. 3, Matt. 4:4

Music: Karen Lafferty, b. 1948

Text: st. 1 and music ©Maranatha! Music, admin. The Copyright Co.

## APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

**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 INTERCESSION

Lord in your mercy, . . . **Hear our prayer.** *Response at the conclusion of the prayer: Amen.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

And now let us pray as our Savior taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, or want information about mailing checks, you may visit [www.stjohnssummit.org/giving](http://www.stjohnssummit.org/giving). You may also contact the church office for more options.*

**OFFERING MUSIC** Setting of "Be Thou My Vision"  
Johna Miller, soprano

By Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **O God, we long for the time when the meek shall inherit the earth and all who hunger and thirst after justice shall be satisfied, and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil, now is always the time when more good can be done and we can make a difference. May it be so, by the presentation of these gifts and the offering of our lives through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

O give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good.  
**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Praise and thanks to God.**

### Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

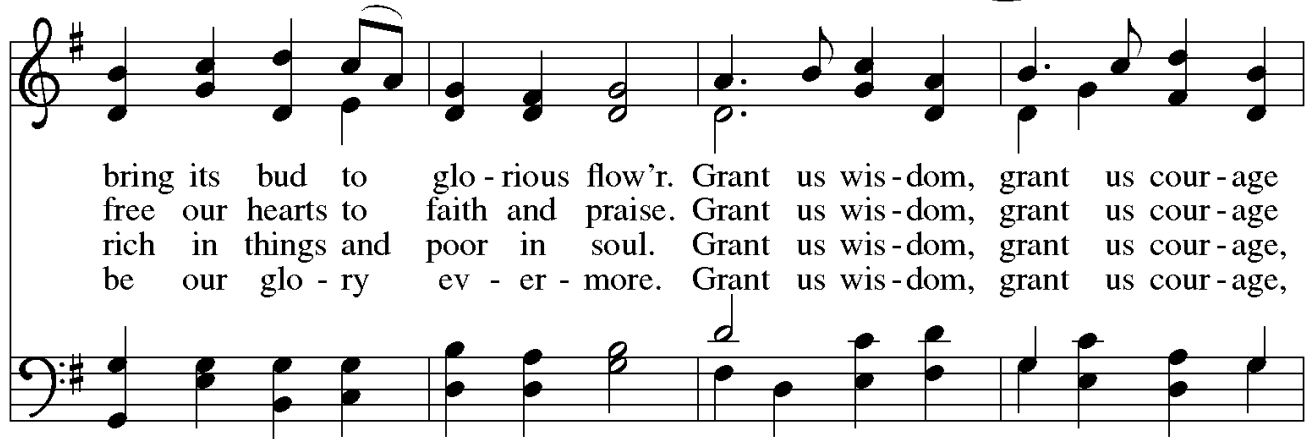
# SENDING HYMN 705 God of Grace and God of Glory



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -  
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Setting of *Lafferty*

By Douglas Wagner (b. 1952)

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



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We're delighted you're worshiping 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.



# PRE-READER

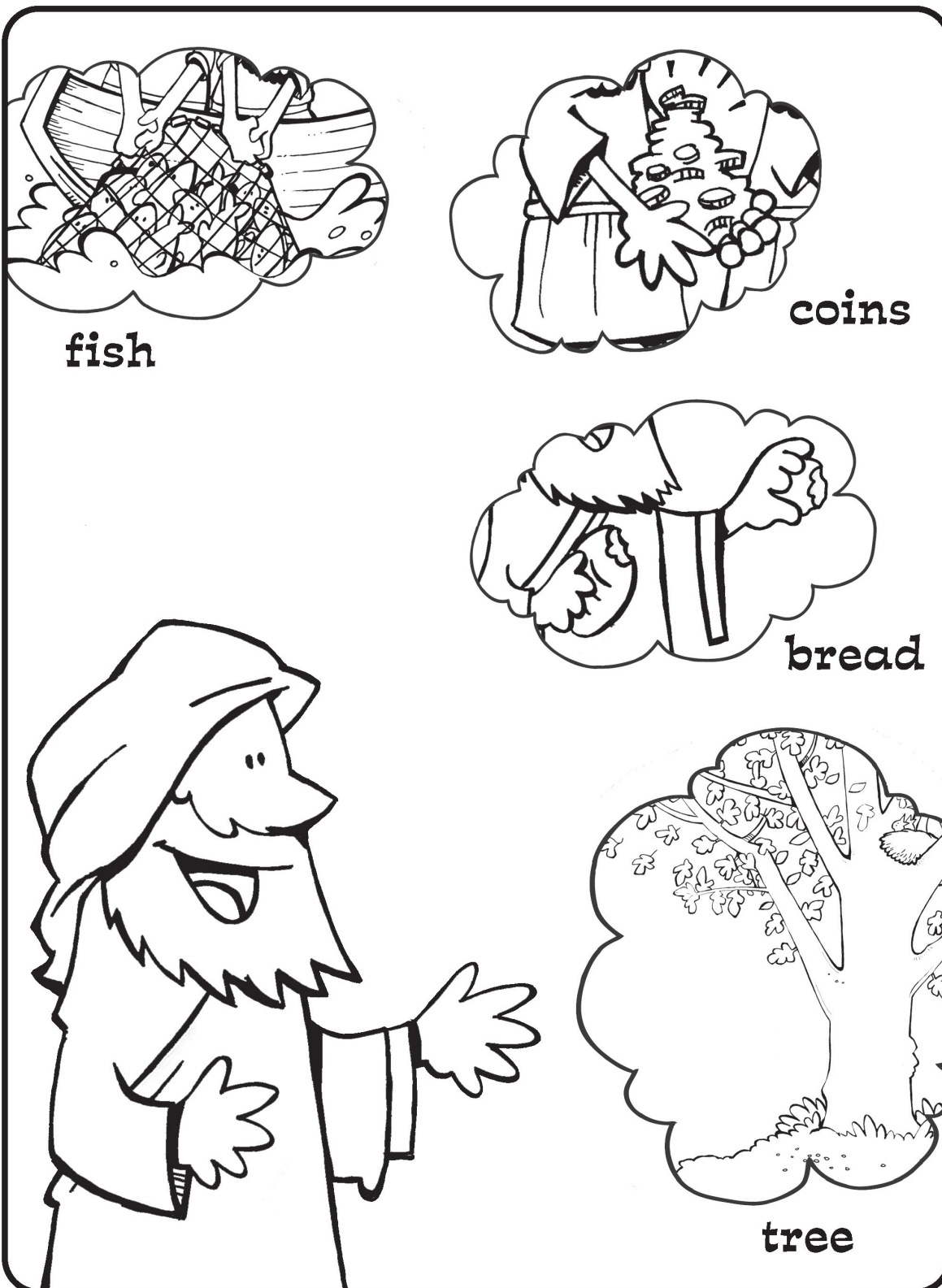
Pentecost 8

- Today is the **8<sup>th</sup> Sunday** after Pentecost.
- During this season we **remember** how important the **church** is to **God**.

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Do you remember what the image for Pentecost is? Connect the dashed lines to draw it!





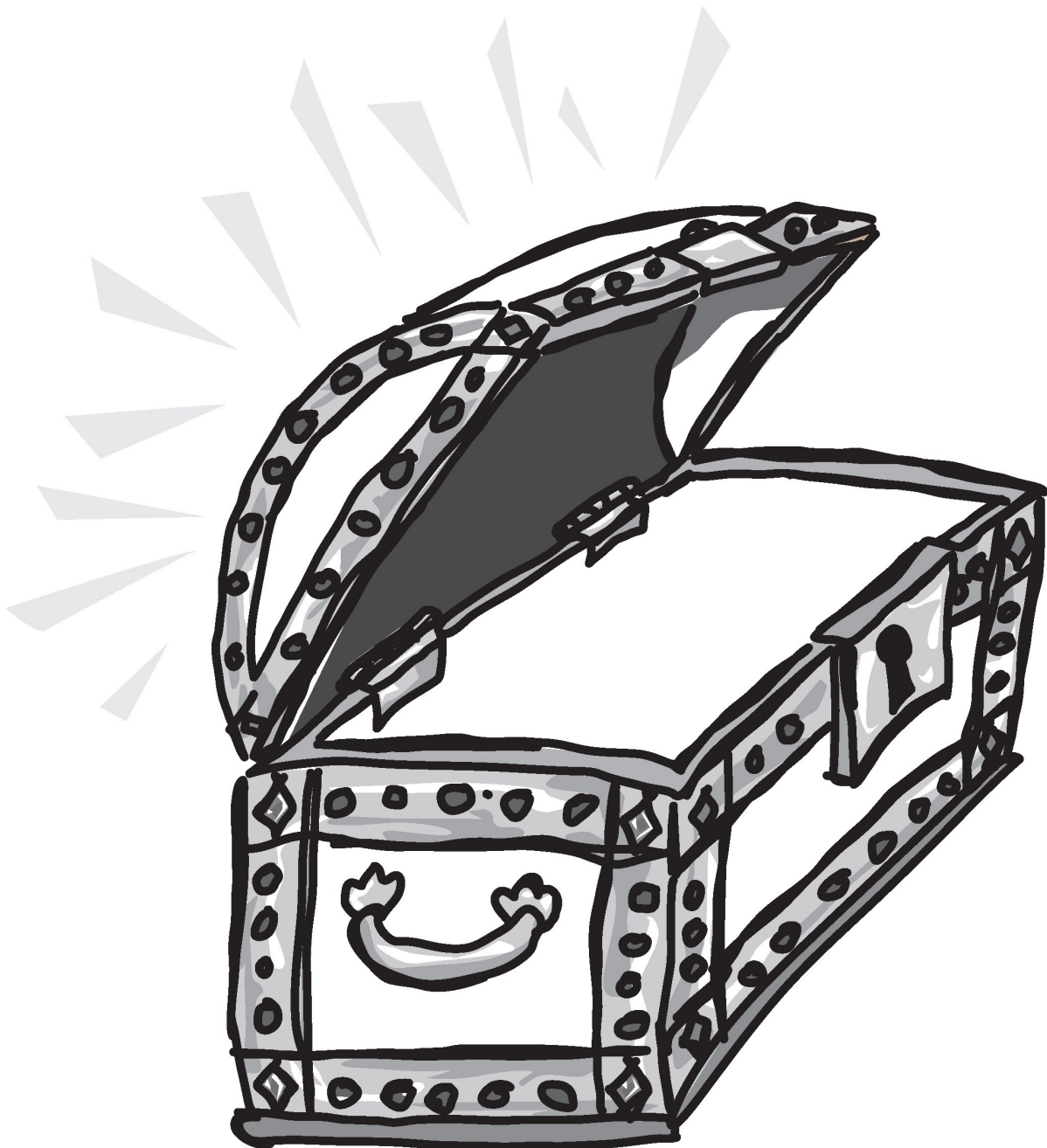
**Jesus says, “This is what the kingdom of God is like!”**



Jesus tells us that the kingdom of God is like a precious treasure.



**What do you treasure? Draw it in this treasure chest.**



Offering time during worship is a time to share our treasure with God.



**What can you offer to God? Draw it in the offering plate.**







# READER

Pentecost 8

- Today is the **eighth** Sunday after Pentecost.
- During this season we remember how important the **church** is to God.

## Reason to Remember

Do you remember what the image is for Pentecost?

Unscramble these letters for a hint: **etre** = \_\_\_\_\_

Draw the image here!

A large, empty rounded rectangle with a thick black border, intended for drawing the image associated with Pentecost.

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:37-38

## Memory Verse

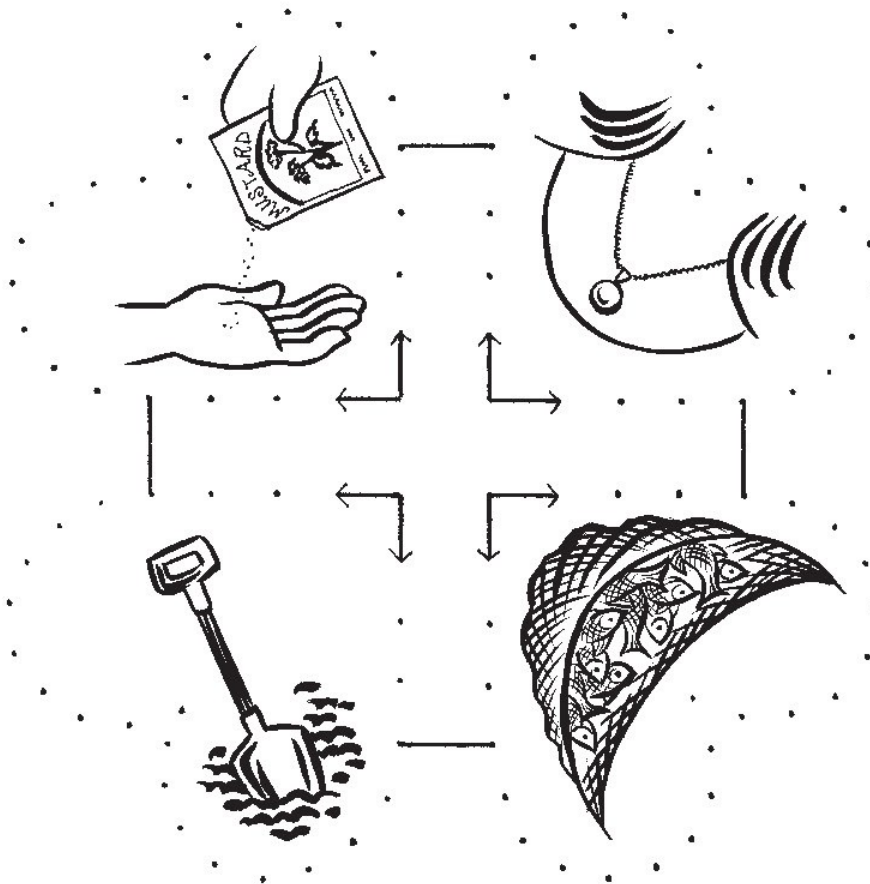


This is a long verse!

Take your bulletin home and try to memorize part of the verse each day this week.

## God's Love Is Like...

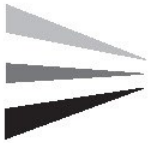
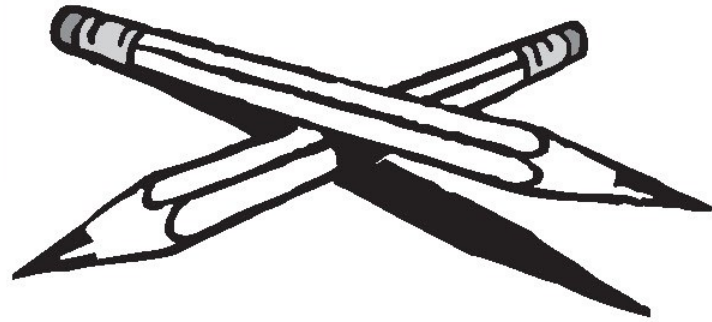
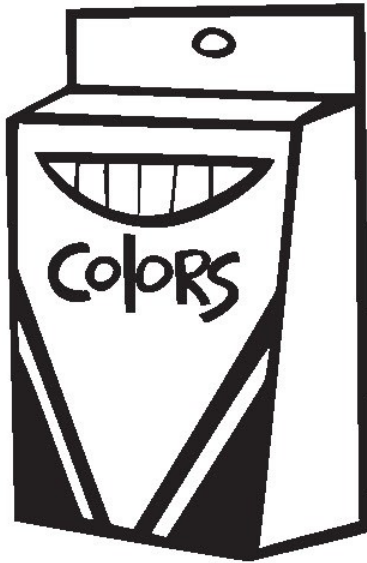
Listen for signs of God's kingdom in the Gospel of Matthew. Trace the heart around each part of the story as you hear it. Color the empty space between the hearts. What do you see?





### Bible Tip!

Don't be afraid to write in your Bible. God wants you to interact with God's Word! Use stickers, colored pens, and highlighters to mark your favorite stories!



## Nothing Means Nothing

Paul tells us that nothing can separate us from God's love.

Fill in the blanks with things you are afraid of.

Remember that even these things cannot separate you from God.

"For I am convinced that neither \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_, nor

\_\_\_\_\_, nor \_\_\_\_\_, nor \_\_\_\_\_, nor \_\_\_\_\_, nor

\_\_\_\_\_, nor \_\_\_\_\_, nor \_\_\_\_\_, nor \_\_\_\_\_ will

be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."



### Look it Up!

Today's Gospel is all about parables. Look up Luke 10:29-37 to read one of the most famous parables in the Bible.

# Let Love Show

Today in worship we learned all about God's love for us.  
What happened in worship that reminded you of God's love? Write or draw about it in these hearts:

