A large field of grass under a blue sky

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*Second Sunday after the Epiphany, January 14, 2023*

Greeting

Call to Worship:

Pastor: Lord give us the ears to hear and the eyes to see

**People:** **Let our light shine!**

Pastor: Teach us the truth of your parables

**People: Come let us learn about the Lord**

Pastor: Plant the seed in our hearts

**People: Let us tend it and let it grow**

Pastor: May our church be like the tree of heaven, with room for all

**People: Come let spend some time with God.**

**Worship Music Sound of Your Voice**

OPENING PRAYER

God, you cast the seeds onto good soil, seeds that grow into the food we eat. Thank you for all that you provide for us: food, water, friendship, and family. We ask that our eyes see, and our hearts hear your words of grace and goodness. Guide us in the planting and nurturing of the seeds that lead to your abundant garden. In Jesus’ Name we pray, **AMEN.**

\*OPENING HYMN Come, Ye Thankful People, Come #694

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESON Psalm 126 MSG

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

CHOIR ANTHEM Christ Returneth

OFFERTORY INVITATION:

There are many signs we claim for our faith but ultimately it is our active love that reveals who we worship. As the plate comes around commit to give of your whole selves. Give of your talents and material possessions to the Church with the expectation that they be used to further God’s dream for our world. Please commit yourself and give as you’re able.

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

As we bring our gifts to be dedicated this morning, we pray that you might open our ears, open our hearts to hear where you call us to respond with obedience, so that we might do what you need to begin healing our world. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON Mark 4: 1-34 NLT

HYMN OF PREPARATION Hymn of Promise #707

SERMON Can You Hear Me Now? Pastor Lyle

\*CLOSING HYMN You Are the Seed #583

BENEDICTION

May God the Father prepare your journey, Jesus the Son guide your footsteps, The Spirit of Life strengthen your body, The Three in One watch over you, on every road that you may follow.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our Prayer List:**

Amber – breast cancer Kellen – reaction to lymphoma treatment

Margaret Bollinger -pancreatic cancer Family of Bill Lesher

Ron Dentzer – cancer Faye Miller - immunotherapy for cancer

Family of Lee Elwell Leroy Miller – neck pain

Lynne Elwell- surgery February 1st People in Israel and Gaza and Ukraine

Kay Fassnacht- recovering from fall Keith Pettus – tonsillectomy January 16th

Tracy Finefrock – recovering from Connie Rupp – hospice care at Fairmont

knee surgery Linda Slafkovski – metastatic cancer

Dennis Foltz – recovering Sharon - brain cancer

Donna – cancer treatable Dawn Smith – stage 4 cancer

Justin Grube – treatable kidney issue Storm victims

Cindy Haines – skilled care Alex Wenger – treatments for leukemia

**SUNDAY MORNING OFFERING**

**OFFERING AMT NEEDED EACH WEEK       $1,400**

**OFFERING January 7th $1,085**

**AMT OF OFFERING NEEDED TO     $1,400**

**AMT RECEIVED TO DATE         $1,085**

**BUDGET YTD -$315 Attendance – 16 Folks**

**What’s happening at Wiest:**

Adult Sunday School – 1015 Sundays

Bible Study – resuming January 16th.

Girl Scouts – 2nd Thursday of each month

Council Meeting – Monday January 22nd 7PM

Game Day – Thursday January 25th 130-330 PM

Blessings of Hope – Saturday January 27th 1030-1100

Audio of the Sunday message is posted on our church website ([www.wiestchurch.org](http://www.wiestchurch.org)). Video on Wiest Church Facebook page

Connie Rupp’s new address and phone number:

Connie Rupp Room phone: 717-354-1603

Fairmont Homes Rehab desk phone: 717-354-1881

Room 128D

333 Wheatridge Dr

Ephrata, PA 17522

Lectionary Readings for next week: Sunday – Mark 4:1-9

Monday – Mark 4:10-20 Thursday – Mark 4:35-41

Tuesday – Mark 4:21-25 Friday – Luke 8:1-3

Wednesday – Mark 4:26-34 Saturday – Mark 5:1-13

Sermon Summary

Can You Hear Me Now?

The *Can You Hear Me Now* commercials used an ordinary looking man to speak to us and about us. Jesus did the same thing. He looked just like those he spoke to. He spoke in parables, stories with a message. His message could and can be understood in all kinds of locations. He had drawn large crowds to hear his message. All he really wants is for people to do the will of God… and to reconfigure the family as we know it. After three fast paced chapters, the pace slows in Chapter 4. In a farming story, Jesus invites us to stop scanning the surface from far away and instead get up close with him to observe how a seed sprouts and grows. In the Parable of the Sower, a farmer scatters seeds that land on four different kinds of soil.

When he is alone with the disciples, he answers their question about the meaning of the parable. He is the secret to the Kingdom of God. He explains what happens to the seeds that fall on each type of soil. The seeds that fell among the thorns represent people who hear God’s word. But the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced. The seeds that fell on good soil represent those who hear and accept God’s word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted. Jesus tells these parables not only as the Sower of the message of this kingdom, but also as its Bearer.

We are the soil. A couple of points about soil. Soil cannot change itself. Soil can be changed, but not by itself. We don’t know who will be good soil. The promise is that there will be a harvest. Many reject the message of Jesus. We are the good soil when we accept the seed and let it grow.

Sermon Quiz

1. Jesus spoke in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which were stories with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_e.
2. He really wants is for \_\_\_\_\_\_ to do the \_\_\_\_ of God and redefine family.
3. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us from far away to get up \_\_\_\_\_ with him to observe how a seed sprouts and grows.
4. In the Parable of the \_\_\_\_\_, the seed falls on \_\_\_\_ kinds of soil.
5. Not everyone will understand the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Kingdom of God.
6. For some, the message is crowded out by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of this life, the lure of \_\_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_\_ for other things, and no fruit is produced.
7. Seeds that fell on good soil represent those who \_\_\_ and accept God’s \_\_\_\_.
8. Jesus tells these parables not only as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the message of this kingdom, but also as its \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
9. Jesus is baffling, disruptive, and inconceivable and many \_\_\_\_\_\_ the message of his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
10. We are good \_\_\_\_ when we accept the seed and let it \_\_\_\_.

Last Week’s Quiz

1. Epiphany celebrates God’s revealing himself to the world as the baby Jesus.
2. Mark teaches us about who Jesus is; the character of the God who is revealed in him; and the His works of mercy and restoration. ministry.
3. Jesus was back home; he taught at home and the crowds blocked the door.
4. Four friends lowered a paralytic through the roof on a mat.
5. Jesus saw their faith , forgave the man’s sins and then healed him.
6. Jesus choose Levi as a disciple as he walked along the lakeshore.
7. He told the teachers that he came to save sinners, not those who were well.
8. Jesus was called to save more than the teachers expected.
9. Jesus preached that fasting was to be done for the right reasons.
10. Putting new wine in new wineskins symbolized new behavior as a result of the gospel.