



# Vestal United Methodist Church

## June 13, 2021



### Welcome Prelude Call to Worship

Come and see what bloomed in the garden  
while we were asleep! What unfurling  
Spirit has done in the dark:

**How solidarity sprouts where ego was weeded out.**  
How compassion blossoms from the ground  
where we sat and shared stories.

**Let us gather**  
that we might be to each other branch and shade,  
**that we might rejoice in God**  
who tends our intentions and blesses our rest.

- \* **Hymn of Praise** *To What Can The Kingdom of God Be Compared*
- \* **Sharing Signs of Peace**

### Gathering Prayer [all read together]

**Mysterious God, sometimes we don't know when to engage and when to rest. Sometimes we weep because rest is nowhere to be found. You join the causes of those who make a way out of no way. Tune our voices to the liberation songs you yearn to sing with us. Help us discern love's invitation in our own lives, for in honoring our boundaries, we make space for the movement of the holy. Amen.**

### Silence The Lord's Prayer (modified version, from the New Zealand Book of Prayer)

**Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

**Anthem** *Today is Beautiful*  
Katie Ossege

DAVID DUNN

**An Ancient Word** Psalm 20:1-9; Mark 4:26-34

**Children's Message**

\* 400 UMH

*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessings*

**A Contemporary Word  
Message**

*I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*

Maya Angelou

**Joys & Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer**

*Resilience of a Mustard Seed*

Isaac Garrigues-Cortelyou

**Living the Faith  
Offering Ourselves to God**

There has to be a song  
Katie Ossege & Briana Ryan

ANDREA RAMSEY

\* Hymn

\* Benediction

*Resilience*

(words and music by Abbie Betinis)

\* Congregational Response

*Go to the World* (verse 3)

SINE NOMINE

**Postlude**

## Opening Hymn: To What Can the Kingdom of God be Compared?

WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

MUSIC: William Howard Doane, 1875

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1. To what can the kingdom of God be compared?  
A mustard seed falls where a field's been prepared,  
And there, where predictable plantings should be,  
There grows up a wild bush — as big as a tree!  
God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:  
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.  
Your reign is amazing, your ways still astound,  
Just like that new life springing forth from the ground.

2. A small bit of leaven will change the whole bread:  
A poor woman sees that her neighbors are fed,  
A church reaches out to the youth in the town,  
A man shares his faith and God's blessings abound.  
God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:  
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.  
Your reign is among us, creation is blessed,  
When even a few faithful lives change the rest.

3. While some look for treasure or one priceless pearl,  
God's reign is the gift wise ones seek in this world.  
A girl sells possessions to help those in need;  
A boy chooses faithfulness rather than greed.  
God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:  
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.  
Your reign is a treasure that wise ones pursue;  
May we seek your kingdom in all that we do.

## Closing Hymn: Resilience

WORDS & MUSIC: Abbie Betinis

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Resilience, we are strong;  
shoulder to shoulder keep movin' on,  
Resilience, make a new plan;  
stand up again and say yes we can.

## Hymn 400: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758

MUSIC: from Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of thy redeeming love.

2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer;  
hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for thy courts above.

## Response: Go to the World! vs. 3

WORDS: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1985

MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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3. Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;  
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.  
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.