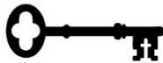




TO WORSHIP GOD,
to grow as disciples of Jesus,
TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER,
to take God's love to the world.



905-522-9098 | cpchamilton.ca
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
165 Charlton Ave. W., Hamilton, ON L8P 2C8

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON

June 16, 2024 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Intergenerational Worship Service

Minister – Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis

Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Greeters – Abbie Boyko & Shirley Fredlander

A Warm Welcome to Worship at Central this morning!

* Indicates standing, as you are able.

PRELUDE *Little Tunes For Little Ones*

J. Conely

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT *Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying*

449

Lord, listen to your children praying; Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love; send us power; send us grace!

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: It is good to give God thanks, to sing praises to the Most High!

Congregation: We will sing for joy to God who has made us glad.

Let us declare God's steadfast love in the morning,
and God's faithfulness by night.

So come to worship God with thankful, joyful hearts!

Let us praise God's holy name together.

* HYMN – This Is My Father's World

328

PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Living God,

from you come vitality, love and joy.

Your peace is our companion,

your love is our strength,

your Son is our hope.

Your Spirit nurtures tiny seeds of purpose and potential,

hidden deep in the soil of life,

to surprise us with new life.

While the earth begins to bloom around us,

we bring you our prayers and praise,

trusting that your Spirit will renew in us

the gifts we need to serve you in faithfulness

in the example of Christ our Lord.

Living, loving God,
as we watch our gardens and watch our own growing from year-to-year,
we confess sometimes we cannot wait to grow,
and sometimes we are anxious by the change growth can bring.
We have many questions.
we seek a place to trust us with them,
we seek those who will lovingly engage us.
We pray too, forgive us when we think we already know enough.
Grant us faith like the mustard seed,
able to grow with your blessing
to become a mighty sign of your lively kingdom among us. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us?
Only Christ – and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us,
Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven and set free by God’s generous grace! Rejoice in God’s good gift.

THE PEACE May the peace of Christ be with you; **and also with you.**

Please share a word or sign of the Peace of Christ with those around you as you are comfortable.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

STATEMENT OF WELCOME AND INCLUSION

We strive to be a welcoming, nurturing, loving, and supportive community unified in Jesus Christ. As an inclusive congregation, we joyfully affirm and honour the diversity of God’s creation. Our community is richer when we include people of all ages, gender identities, racial and cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations, abilities, economic circumstances and family configurations. We proclaim this statement of inclusion to all who have experienced the pain of exclusion or discrimination by the church and society. All are invited to join a body of believers, to participate fully in the life, leadership, witness and ministry of Central Presbyterian Church. We acknowledge we are imperfect and in different stages of our faith journey. No matter who you are, how you identify, whom you love, or where you are on life’s journey: know you are welcome here, and you are loved by God.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 4:26-34 ICB

Then Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is like a man who plants seed in the ground. The seed comes up and grows night and day. It doesn't matter whether the man is asleep or awake; the seed still grows. The man does not know how it grows. Without any help, the earth produces grain. First the plant grows, then the head, and then all the grain in the head. When the grain is ready, the man cuts it. This is the harvest time."

Then Jesus said, "How can I show you what the kingdom of God is like? What story can I use to explain it? The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. The mustard seed is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. But when you plant this seed, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants. It produces large branches. Even the wild birds can make nests in it and be protected from the sun."

Jesus used many stories like these to teach them. He taught them all that they could understand. He always used stories to teach them. But when he and his followers were alone together, Jesus explained everything to them.

CHILDREN'S TELLING - God's Realm

(adapted from Ralph Milton's Lectionary Story Bible)

Narrator - Mary and Andrew were tired. All of Jesus' friends were tired. Jesus was tired.

They had been out all day in the hot sun sitting on a hill beside the Lake of Galilee, listening to Jesus talk to people. Many people had come from all over, and they wanted to listen to Jesus. They wanted to learn how to live God's way. Now it was nighttime. It was cool. Jesus and his friends were sitting beside a small fire. Andrew had cooked some fish for them. They were still tired, but they felt a little better after eating.

Mary - I hope you get a good sleep tonight, Jesus. You were talking to people all day long.

Jesus - Yes, I'm tired. But those people really wanted to learn. They wanted to know about God's love. They wanted to know about God's realm. God's kingdom. I wonder if they really understood what I was saying to them.

Andrew - I don't think I really understood.

Mary - I don't know if I did either?

Narrator - Jesus looked up to the stars. The disciples could see how very tired he was.

Mary - you can explain it to us another time.

Jesus - That's ok. I can explain it now. Come sit a little closer so I don't have to talk too loud. Mary, you have a garden don't you? What do you plant in your garden.

Mary - Beans, and peppers, and tomatoes, and service berries.

Jesus – when you plant the beans in the ground, after a while they grow. First you see the tiny green leaves poking up through the ground. Then there’s a plant. After that you see the green bean pods, and you have more beans to eat. Then do you know what happens?

Narrator – The disciples were confused and shaking their heads. They didn’t know.

Jesus – well, that’s how it is with God’s realm. It doesn’t happen all at once. It happens bit by bit. You don’t know how it is happening. But there it is. God’s realm grows inside you and all around you.

Disciple – I think I get it. When we hear the stories you tell, when we hear other people talking about living God’s way, when we try to be kind and loving, God’s realm just grows inside us.

Jesus – yes, and here’s something else. Do you know what kind of bush that is?

Disciple – Sure, it’s a mustard plant.

Jesus – How big is a mustard seed?

Disciple – It’s really tiny. It’s so small you can hardly see it.

Jesus – that tiny tiny seed grows into a nice bush. It’s almost big enough for birds to build their nests in it. Isn’t that amazing, and surprising?

Disciple – I think I get it. Even when we can just barely feel God’s love inside ourselves, it’s like that tiny mustard seed. God’s love will grow and grow and grow until we can feel God’s love from our toes right up to the top of our heads.

Jesus – Right! Now let’s lie down on the soft grass and get some sleep. Tomorrow is going to be another busy day.

RESPONSIVE SONG *Bless the Lord* (from Psalms 102&103) – Taizé Music: Jacques Berthier

**Refrain (Congregation and Children): Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life. (2x)**

Choral Verse: The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
God does not treat us according to our sins,
nor replay us according to our faults.

Refrain 2x (Congregation and Children)

Choral Verse: As a father has compassion on his children,
The Lord has pity on those who fear him,
for God knows of what we are made.
God remembers that we are dust.

Refrain 2x (Congregation and Children)

RELFECTION: A Parable and a Fable

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

* HYMN - In the Bulb There is a Flower

674

THE OFFERING

The parables of Jesus remind us that God's kingdom grows from small beginnings with surprising results. So give to God as you are able, and trust that God will honour your generosity.

CHORAL OFFERTORY *See What Love Hath The Father Bestowed*

F. Mendelssohn

*See what love hath the Father bestowed on us in His goodness,
That we should be called God's own children*

* THE DOXOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below:
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gracious God, you hold all things in your hands.
We may plant seeds
but it is your mysterious power that brings forth growth.
We play our small parts but you awaken new life.
Thank you for our place in your purposes.
Guide our plans for ministry in the days ahead.

Plant seeds of your kingdom in our midst, O God.
May we bear the fruits of new life.

We pray for the work of our church and our government
in pursuing Truth and Reconciliation with Canada's indigenous peoples.
We pray for indigenous communities
which lack clean water to drink and health care close at hand,
and for all those mourning
the loss of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls .
Guide decision makers to act with timely courage and compassion
for justice to be done.
Awaken understanding in those who feel no empathy
for the struggles of others.

Plant seeds of your kingdom in our midst, O God.
May we bear the fruits of new life.

On this day that celebrates fathers,
we pray for families in war-torn communities
where celebration is an impossible dream.
We pray for fathers and families who face financial hardship
and worry for the well-being of their children.
And we pray for any who feel empty or lonely this day,
who fear the future or mourn the past.
As summer holidays draw closer,
guide families to find meaningful opportunities
to enjoy each other and the world on their doorsteps.

Plant seeds of your kingdom in our midst, O God.
May we bear the fruits of new life.

Gracious God, you hold all things in your hand, including us.
Be with all the young whose carry silent burdens.
Be with the aged those who carry on in spite of loss or grief.
Be with those who may be worried or scared,
may they know our friendship and your care.
Keep us all open to your Spirit's leading.
In all that we do with and for each other,
help us embody the love of our Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying

**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 trespasses,**

**As we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen**

GOD SENDS US

* HYMN – We Plough The Fields and Scatter

807

1. We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand:
you send the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.

Refrain:

All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
we thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord
for all your love.

2. You only are the Maker
of all things near and far;
you paint the wayside flower,
you light the evening star;
the winds and waves obey you;
by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children,
you give our daily bread. Refrain

3. We thank you, our provider,
for all things bright and good,
the seedtime and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
for all your love imparts,
but that which you most welcome:
our humble, thankful hearts. Refrain

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

COMMISSIONING

All children and youth are invited to stand at the front of the sanctuary for the commissioning.

Walk gently on the earth God has entrusted to us all
and cherish God's amazing creation.

Deep peace of the running wave to you,

Deep peace of the flowing air to you,

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you. Amen.

* THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Jesus Shall Reign*

Anna Laura Page, Tune: Duke Street by John Hatton, 1793

This is my Father's world

TERRA BEATA 6 6 8 6 D SMD Irregular

E♭ /G B♭6 7 E♭ (Fm/Ab C7/G) Fm B♭/D E♭

1. This is my Fath-er's world, and to my lis-tening
 2. This is my Mak-er's world; the birds their car-ols
 3. This is my Sav-iour's world; oh let me not for-

B♭ /Ab E♭/G E♭ B♭6 Cm G 7 Cm B♭/D

ears all na-ture sings, and round me rings the
 raise; the morn-ing light, the li-ly white, de-
 get that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God

E♭ Cm E♭/G B♭7 E♭ B♭/Ab E♭/G Ab Cm E♭/G

mu-sic of the spheres. This is my Fath-er's world: I
 clare their Mak-er's praise. This is my Mak-er's world; God
 is the Rul-er yet. This is my Sav-iour's world; the

Words: Maltbie D. Babcock (1858–1901); alt Music: English traditional melody; arrangement, anonymous

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Ab Eb/G Bb/F F7 Bb /Ab Eb/G Eb Bb6 Cm

rest me in the thought; of rocks and trees, of
 shines in all that's fair; in the rus - tling grass, God's
 bat - tle is not done; Je - sus, who died, shall be

G 7 Cm Bb/D Eb Cm Eb/G Bb7 Eb

skies and seas God's hands the won - ders wrought.
 foot - steps pass; God speaks to me eve - ry - where.
 sat - is - fied, and earth and heaven be one.

Chinese (Mandarin)

Zhè shì Tian Fu shì jiè,
 Wǒ mén cè er jīng tīng;
 Yú zhòu ge chāng sì wéi xiāng yīng
 Xīng chén zuò lè tóng shēng.
 Zhè shì Tian Fu shì jiè;
 wǒ xīn mǎn yǒu ān níng,
 huá cǎo shù mù,
 qióng cāng bì hai;
 Shù shuō Tian Fu qì néng.

The love of God comes close

RHOSYMEDRE 7666888

1. The love of God comes close where stands an o - pen door,
2. The peace of God comes close to those caught in the storm,
3. The joy of God comes close where faith en - coun - ters fears,
4. The grace of God comes close to those whose grace is spent,
5. The Son of God comes close where peo - ple praise his name,

to let the stran-ger in, to min - gle rich and poor.
for - go - ing lives of ease to ease the lives for - lorn.
where heights and depths of life are found through smiles and tears.
when hearts are tired or sore and hope is bruised and bent.
where bread and wine are blest and shared as when he came.

Words: John L. Bell (1949-), Graham Maule (1958-) Music: John David Edwards (1805-1885)

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D/F# G Em G/B C G D G/B C/E G/D D/C G/B

The love
The peace
The joy of God is here to stay, em - brac-ing those who
The grace
The Son

D7/A G D /C G/B D G C G/D D 7 G

walk the Way; the love
peace
joy of God is here to stay.
grace
Son

In the bulb there is a flower

PROMISE 8 7 8 7 D

Unison F Gm/F

1. In the bulb there is a flow - er, in the seed, an ap - ple tree,
 2. There's a song in eve - ry si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3. In our end is our be - gin - ning, in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in eve - ry dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing, in our life, e - ter - ni - ty,

F7 Bb (Gm6) F/A Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 in our death, a res - ur - rec - tion, at the last, a vic - to - ry,

/C Bb Gm6 F/C Dm Gm 7 C 7 Fsus4-3

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Words: Natalie Sleeth (1930–1992) Music: Natalie Sleeth (1930–1992)

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Central Graduates June 2024:

- **Kelvin Olumide** - Graduating from Kanétskare Elementary School and entering Grade 9 at Westdale Secondary School.
- **Harrison Patton** - Graduating from Chedoke Elementary School and entering Grade 9 at Westmount Secondary School.
- **Rachel Weresch** - Graduating from Queensdale Elementary School and entering Grade 9 at Sir Allan MacNab Secondary School.
- **Neto Umezie** - Graduating from Kanétskare Elementary School and entering Grade 9 at Westdale Secondary School.
- **Giselle Swanepoel** - Graduating from Westdale Secondary School and entering the Bachelor of Medical Sciences program at Western University.

Central Presbyterian Church is here to offer sacred space for worship, a safe space for community groups to gather, and a generous space to **Hamilton Out of the Cold** serving meals to those who need them. Your presence with us today and your support of our work means so much. May God bless you richly!



CPC Statement of Welcome:

www.cpchamilton.ca/statement-of-welcome-and-inclusion/

If you would like to get to know Central better, please introduce yourself to an usher and/or spend some time going through our Website (www.cpchamilton.ca). If you would like to be added to our email list, please inform Helena (helena@cpchamilton.ca or 905-522-9098 ext. 0).

Central Presbyterian Church Calendar

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ~ Sunday, June 16, 10:30 a.m. | Sunday Worship Service |
| ~ Tuesday, June 18, 10:00 a.m. | Knit and Knatter Group and Lunch |
| ~ Monday, June 24, 7:30 p.m. | Search Committee Meeting |
| ~ Monday, July 22 - Friday, July 26 | Vacation Bible Camp at Chedoke Presbyterian Church |

Status of the Search for our New Minister: The Search Committee is currently collating all the information from the recent Congregational Self-Analysis forms, and collecting relevant community data for the creation of Central's Congregational Profile. That document will then be distributed to potential candidates. Please pray for the committee members as they continue to engage in this holy task on behalf of the congregation. During the Search process, if you have any questions or concerns please contact Philip - our Interim Moderator - either in-person at coffee-time following the Sunday services; by phone @ 905-574-4383; or by email at revpmw@outlook.com.

For any pastoral concerns, please contact the Rev. Lois Whitwell (905-522-9098 ext. 2 or lois@cpchamilton.ca). Central's Prayer Team is available to receive needs in confidence. Contact Pam Carpenter at 905-526-0631 or carpenterfamily@sympatico.ca. Our **Prayer Shawl Ministry** is becoming an integral part of Pastoral Care. While we do not name the recipients, we encourage you to remember them in your prayers. Simply pray for those who have received our prayer shawls. But we do have one need. To date we have been cleaning out individuals' yarn "stash." But we are running low. The wool we have been using is *Lion Brand Homespun* which is a number 5 in weight. But any wool of a similar weight will work. We have other patterns that use other kinds of wool. If you would like to support this ministry through donating wool or a donation towards buying wool, please speak to Lois. You can email her at lois@cpchamilton.ca or call her at 905-522-7266 ext. 2.

Congregational Givings

OFFERING in support of the worship and mission of Central

You can support this good work by donating in various means. You can place a gift on the offering plate, use pre-authorized remittance (PAR), donate online, send money via Interac E-Transfer, or send a cheque to bookkeeper@cpchamilton.ca. Please make sure to include your envelope number or mailing address for tax receipt purposes. For ways to give, visit cpchamilton.ca/giving. Please ensure your information is up-to-date with your elder or the church office, if you have moved, are moving, or have changed any of your contact information.

Central Presbyterian Church - Land Acknowledgement *

We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that Central Presbyterian Church is located on the traditional territories of the Anishnaabek and Haudenosaunee peoples. This land is protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to share and care for the lands, air, and waters around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We recognize that we must learn about the rich history of this land to better understand our role as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers. We are all treaty people.

* Our website has a guide explaining the above Land Acknowledgement
<https://www.cpchamilton.ca/land-acknowledgement/>

Stewardship Moment

**The power of the future
lies not in the hands of
those who believe in
scarcity but of those who
trust God's abundance.**

*-Walter Brueggemann (Old Testament
Scholar and Minister in the United
Church of Christ)*



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

presbyterian.ca

Interim Minister – The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Athanasiadis

Minister Emeritus – The Rev. Dr. Alan M. McPherson

Interim Moderator – The Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson

Director of Pastoral Care – The Rev. Lois Whitwell

Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Coordinator of Discipleship – Sara Traficante

Bookkeeper – Michelle Frebold

Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma

Custodian – David Lewington

Nursery Coordinator – Aztecca Clarke

Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French

Telephone: 905-522-9098 Email: info@cpchamilton.ca www.cpchamilton.ca

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Word of the Day:

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?' ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.' (Mark 4: 30-32)

Prompts for Reflection



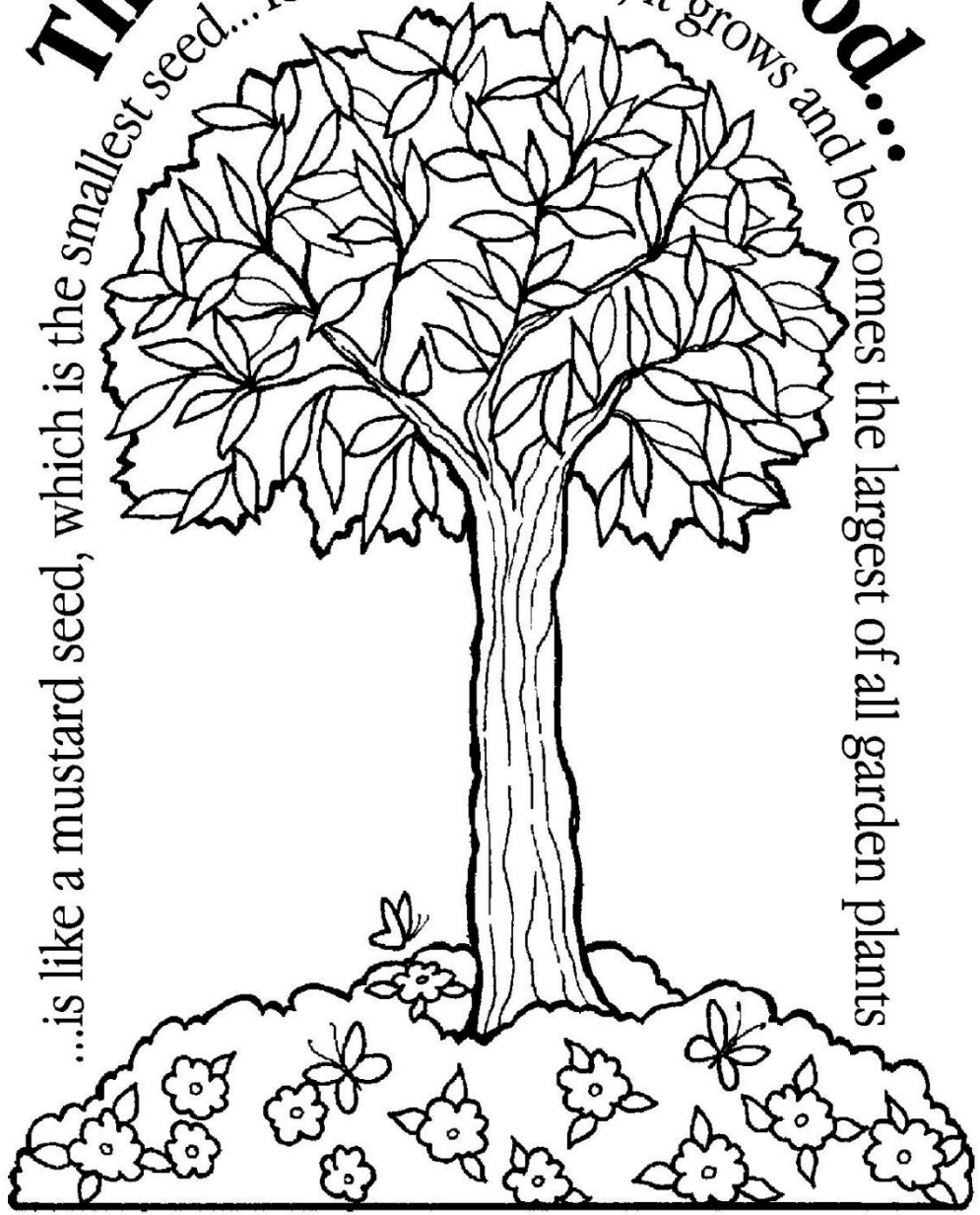
Illustration by Jessie Willcox Smith (1911)

Once upon a time there lived a poor widow and her son Jack. So goes the old 'Jack and the Beanstalk fable.' One day, Jack's mother told him to sell their only cow. Jack went to the market and on the way, he met a man who wanted to buy his cow. Jack asked, "What will you give me in return for my cow?" The man answered, "I will give you five magic beans!" Jack took the magic beans and gave the man the cow. What a trade! Jack's mother was incensed and heartbroken. 'We can't live on these' she screams and throws them out the window. Except that those five beans end up sprouting into a beanstalk that reaches to a kingdom in the sky, which opens undreamed-of possibilities.

Nick Athanasiadis

The kingdom of God...

...is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed... Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants



Mark 4:30-32