



**FIFTH AVE. UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

323 South 5th Avenue
West Bend WI 53095

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost
July 30, 2023

Polly Bertelsen, Liturgist
Dave Bertelsen, Singer
Deanna Gibeau, Organist
Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Senior Pastor

JOIN US IN PERSON OR ONLINE
Sundays, 9:30 A.M.

WELCOME TO FIFTH AVE. UMC
Whether you're just beginning to explore
your faith or have been following Christ for
years, you and your whole family can belong
at Fifth Ave. UMC

***Note: L - denotes worship "Leader"**
P - denotes "People"

~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

PRELUDE: Diana Jonen Clarinetist
"Adagio" from "The Seasons" by Antonio Vivaldi
"Andante" by Pietro Nardini
"Just a Closer Walk" Arr. Paul Haack

~WELCOME & CENTERING~

GREETING: Lord of preparation and transitions, we are already halfway through our summer months. We sit and wonder where the time went, did we spend it well in your service. Give us these next few weeks for renewal that we may be prepared to work through your church for your world.

Keep us mindful of the needs of family, friends and others, that we will be your faithful disciples, for we ask these things in Jesus' Name. **Amen.**

"I Need You To Survive"

Hezekiah Walker

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBwUkCYW2n0>

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Email -rev.cmartinelli6@gmail.com

CENTERING MUSIC: "Sarabande by Handel

Diana Jonen, Clarinet

***CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsively)**

L: You are like mustard seeds. Praise be to God for the wonders that are hidden within you, yet to be uncovered and grow!

P: Mustard seeds? That doesn't sound like much. They are just something to be thrown down in the dirt. What's so good about being mustard seeds?

L: Within each of you are wondrous gifts and talents that you haven't found yet. Be patient and wait. God will reveal those gifts and you will discover the many ways in which you are called to serve. You may be those who offer shelter and nurture for others who feel lost and alienated. Just wait and be ready!

P: God, give us patience and help us to wait for you to work within us.

L: You are yeast! Praise be to God for the wonders that are hidden within you, yet to grow!

P: Yeast? It is a mysterious thing, using sugar and sweetness to help it grow. Why in the world would God call us yeast?

L: Energy and joy abide within you! You may be those who influence people, who invite them to open their hearts to God. One thing is for sure, you will transform people's lives in God's name.

P: Lord, give us patience and help us to be ready to work for you!

L: You are treasures of great value. Praise be to God for the wonders that are hidden within you, yet to be discovered!

P: Treasures! Now that's more like it! We are already special!

L: The luster that you have is only the beginning of things. Your deep and abiding faith will lead others to new lives of hope and courage.

P: Help us, O Lord, not to get too impressed with ourselves. Give us hearts that focus on others in your name.

L: Come this day and discover who God calls you to be.

P: We come, O Lord, offering our praise and our prayers to you in confidence of your abiding presence and creative intention within each one of us. Amen.

*** PRAYER OF PETITION: (Unison)**

O God, teach us not to despise small things. Remind us that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a tiny mustard seed. Turn our attention to the small things that bless others. You have planted seeds of great potential in our souls. Help us develop our potential so that you and others can depend on it. Turn our attention to what is small but potent.

O God, you have entrusted us with gifts and graces that can bless many people. Help us not to overlook the smallest ability. O God, you have placed the destiny of the Kingdom of Heaven inside of us. Turn our attention to the small things that this congregation can do to make a tremendous difference in human lives. Amen.

***WORDS OF FORGIVENESS:**

L: Here is some wonderful news! While we were worrying and fretting, God has been at work in our lives offering healing and peace. Receive these gifts in the name and love of the Lord our God. All: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN:**

"How Great Thou Art"

UMH77

~WE PROCLAIM~

***Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52~NRSV Translation (unison)**

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 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." 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." "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. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So, it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes."

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON:

"Parables of the Kingdom"

Pastor Clarissa

~PRAYERS & CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE~

Pastor: God of all goodness:

People: hear our prayer.

God of surprising love, you have called us to be your treasures, to be those who love and serve you by helping meet the needs of others. Jesus reminded us that we were like mustard seeds that could grow into mighty shelters for those who felt abandoned; that we were like yeast placed in flour which causes the whole dough to rise and to be fruitful for the nourishment of God's people, that we are also nets, cast into the unknown sea, gathering people for the Lord that they might be healed and saved. You place so much hope and trust in us. Please help us not to fail you. We bring before

you this day persons and situations which need your healing love. Help us to be vehicles of that word for these dear ones. Give us courage and empower us to serve you boldly and joyfully, for it is in the healing love of Christ that we offer this prayer. **AMEN.**

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 trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

~2023 WEST BEND FARMERS MARKET~

~INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OFFERINGS~

***DOXOLOGY:** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

All: God of all blessings, Jesus inspired us through his teaching to see your Kingdom as a place where small things can have a mighty impact: a tiny mustard seed planted, or a bit of yeast mixed into the flour. We ask you this day to bless the gifts we offer, so that they may have a powerful impact when used according to your purposes. Bless us that we might see glimpses of your kingdom through our giving and grow in generosity in the process. In name of Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray. Amen. (Matt 13:31-33, 44-52)

***CLOSING HYMN:** “Pass It On” UMH 572

~SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~

L: Go forth today ready to catch glimpses of God's never-ending, unstoppable, and always-present love at work in the world. And when that love feels hidden and distant, breathe deep and remember: unrevealed does not mean inactive. **Amen.**

Pastor: Go forth in Wisdom, in hope, in courage with hearts open to recognize the signs of the reign of God in our midst, and courage to create more space for grace in our lives and our world.

***POSTLUDE:**

“Allegretto”

Henry Purcell

The bulletins are given by Beverly Hartmann in memory of her husband, Ron Hartmann.

The flowers on the altar are given by Pastor Clarissa and Bro. Martin in celebration of Pastor Clarissa’s 60th birthday on August 3.

**Please join us for continued Fellowship and birthday
celebration
in the lounge during our Fellowship Time.**