

**Covenant Community Church**



## Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 13, 2021

### We Gather

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of seeds on earth;

**People: It grows up and becomes the greatest of the shrubs, and the birds of the air make nests in its shade.**

Leader: Give thanks to God, whose promised reign is coming.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Call to Confession (Leader)

When we worship together we remember that we are God's people, but we have often preferred our way instead of God's. Trusting God's power to make us new persons in Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession (People)

**Holy God, the parable of the mustard seed teaches us that a little faith can produce great work in your kingdom. Yet we are too timid to bear the fruit of your righteousness, for we walk by sight and not by faith. Forgive us, Lord; we do not uphold the poor or the oppressed. We do not advocate for the powerless or the voiceless. We do not sacrifice ourselves for the needs of our neighbors. Renew us with the love of Christ so that we no longer live for ourselves, but for Christ who became the seed of your righteousness in us. Amen**

Declaration of Forgiveness (Leader)

We who walk by faith and not by sight believe the good news--If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! Praise be to God for the mercy and grace that forgives our sins. Alleluia. Amen!

Opening Hymn #583

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved  
in living situations to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;  
renew us with your Spirit; Lord free us, make us one!

Opening Prayer

**We Hear the Word**

Scripture

Mark 4:26-34

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

**We Respond**

Interlude

Hymn #412

*Be Thou My Vision*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word,  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my great Father, thy child shall I be,  
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, bring heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation to Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

## **We Are Sent into the World**

Closing Hymn #408

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty—hold me with thy pow'ful hand:  
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no  
more (want no more), feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through:  
strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer, be though still my strength and  
shield (strength and shield), be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;  
bear me through the swelling current, land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to  
thee (give to thee), I will ever give to thee.

Benediction

Benediction Response

*The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious, gracious, gracious to you,  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,  
And give you, give you, give you peace.*

Leader: Go in Peace. Love and serve the Lord!

**People: Praise be to God!**

## **We Fellowship Together**

Virtual Coffee Time and Sharing

---

### **Helping Us Worship**

Minister to the Congregation:

Rev. Jeannette Conver

Worship Leader:

Josy Moore

Music Leader:

Peter Olson

Scripture Reader:

Karen Zidovsky

---

### **Mark 4:26-34** New Living Translation

<sup>26</sup> Jesus also said, “The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup> Night and day, while he’s asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. <sup>29</sup> And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come.”

<sup>30</sup> Jesus said, “How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, <sup>32</sup> but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup> Jesus used many similar stories and illustrations to teach the people as much as they could understand. <sup>34</sup> In fact, in his public ministry he never taught without using parables; but afterward, when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them.

---

## Contact Information

Rev. Jeannette Conver, Pastor

Pastor’s cell: (206) 595-2078

Pastor Email: [cccpastorjeannette@gmail.com](mailto:cccpastorjeannette@gmail.com)

Mailing Address: 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane  
Essex Junction, VT 05452

Website: [jerichocovenantchurch.org](http://jerichocovenantchurch.org)

Church Phone: (802) 879-4313

Diane Border, Church Secretary  
[admin@jerichocovenantchurch.org](mailto:admin@jerichocovenantchurch.org)

