
Graphics and Audio Notes

- There **will** be a sermon starter video.
- There **will** be notes and / or scripture to show on screen during the sermon.



Key Questions

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about the power of worship to transform our souls.

Why is this sermon important?

This sermon is important because worship brings humility, closeness to God and changes our lives.

What is the context of this sermon?

This is the first week of Lessons from a Pumpkin Farm. We are using stories from Carroll and Becky Walters and their farm to help us learn about following Jesus.

What are the next action steps?

Be in worship every week.

Take a chance on worship being a priority for you.

Invite a friend to join you for worship, as we consider what it means to worship, grow, give, serve and share.

Allow worship to bring humility and closeness to God.

What is the good news? What is the bottom line?

The good news is that worship can change us. We become more like Christ.

What are other key takeaways?

For social media

- [text here]

Metadata

Topics

- Change Lives
- Worship

14th Sunday after Pentecost
Lessons from a Pumpkin Farm
Good Soil: The Importance of Worship
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado
Text Online at <http://bit.ly/2aPCFAN>

August 21, 2016
Matthew 13:3-9
Preaching Target Word Count: 1,828
Audio Online at: <http://bit.ly/2bF36V1>
Video Online at: <http://bit.ly/2b8siYM>

Sermon Books of the Bible

- Matthew

Tags

sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, pumpkinpatch, pumpkin, pumpkins, farm, farming, worship, discipleship, faith, growth, life, spirituality

Matthew 13:3-9, CEB **6**

Response to Scripture

Introduction **6**

Sermon Starter Video

Listen for God's Word

Place for Notes

Tool for Spiritual Growth

Prayer

Personal Example: Moving to El Dorado

First Visit to Walters' Pumpkin Patch

Visiting "the Patch"

Series Review

Discipleship Pathway

Lessons from a Pumpkin Farm

Transition

Our Discipleship Pathway **8**

Parable of the Four Soils

The Path

Rocky Ground

Thorny Plants

Good Soil

Our Discipleship Pathway

Worship

Transition

Worship transforms the soil of our soul **9**

Introduction to Video

Video Transcript

Connection to Life

Power of Worship

Transformation

Personal Example: God wants to Change Me

Next Step

When you worship, others notice. 10

Introduction to Video

Video Transcript

Connection to Life

Worship is an Environment for Transformation

Others will Notice

Others may Question

Key Point

Worship Clip 3 - My Oasis 12

Introduction to Video

Video Transcript

Connection to Life

Worship is like an Old Well

Worship brings humility

Next Step

Clip 4 - It's God's Land 13

Introduction to Video

Video Transcript

Connection to Life

Connection to Scripture and Worship

Personal Example: Closer to God

Next Step

Conclusion 14

Good News

Call to Action

Worship is powerful

14th Sunday after Pentecost
Lessons from a Pumpkin Farm
Good Soil: The Importance of Worship
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado
Text Online at <http://bit.ly/2aPCFAN>

August 21, 2016
Matthew 13:3-9
Preaching Target Word Count: 1,828
Audio Online at: <http://bit.ly/2bF36V1>
Video Online at: <http://bit.ly/2b8siYM>

Invitation

I'm sorry. Thank you. Please.

Not ready to pray

Ready to pray

Logistics

Closing

Closing Prayer

Matthew 13:3-9, CEB

³He said many things to them in parables: “A farmer went out to scatter seed. ⁴As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it. ⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn’t deep. ⁶But when the sun came up, it scorched the plants, and they dried up because they had no roots. ⁷Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked them. ⁸Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one. ⁹Everyone who has ears should pay attention.”

Response to Scripture

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Introduction

Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

Listen for God’s Word

I invite you to listen for God’s word today.

Place for Notes

You can find a place in your bulletin to take notes or, if you prefer, in the event for this worship service in the Bible app on your mobile device

Tool for Spiritual Growth

When you learn something new, have a question, make a connection with your life or hear anything that will help you live as a disciple of Jesus Christ as you worship, grow, give, serve and share, write it down.

Then, use these notes as a tool to help you grow in your faith in the days ahead.

Prayer

Will you pray with me?

O God, use these words to speak good news, so that, as individuals and as a congregation, we will fear nothing but sin, desire nothing but you, and live as part of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Personal Example: Moving to El Dorado

Our family moved to El Dorado in the summer of 2012. We had an 18 month old son, 1 month old daughter, I had been appointed to serve as the preacher here at First

United Methodist Church and Nicole to a new role in the United Methodist Conference office in Wichita. We had a lot to learn about El Dorado, being the parents of two children and our new jobs.

First Visit to Walters' Pumpkin Patch

One of the places that we explored that fall was Walters' Pumpkin Patch, north of El Dorado on Highway 77.

I think we have a picture from our first trip there.

[Show picture]

This was taken October 6, 2012. In this picture, Anne is 4 months old and John is 21 months old. We had been here in El Dorado about over three months.



Visiting "the Patch"

This was our first trip to the Walters' farm, but it would not be our last. Our family loves to visit "the Patch" as we like to call it. It is a beautiful place and in some ways, a respite from the rest of the world.

Series Review

Discipleship Pathway

During this worship series, we are focusing on our discipleship pathway, which is this:

We live as disciples of Jesus Christ as we worship, grow, give, serve and share.

These are expectations for our members and invitations to all people to experience life as a follower of Jesus Christ. There are many ways to live a faithful life. This is how we live as Christians here at First United Methodist Church.

Lessons from a Pumpkin Farm

We will be hearing from Carroll and Becky Walters of Walters' Farm. They will be sharing stories on video about their life, pumpkins and the farm. We will be looking for lessons that a pumpkin farm can teach us about living as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Transition

Today, we begin with the story of a farmer who went out to scatter seed.

Our Discipleship Pathway

Parable of the Four Soils

This story is a parable – one Jesus’ teachings in which he uses everyday circumstances or objects to teach us something true about God, God’s kingdom and who we are as human beings. The soils in this story represent the way our souls respond to the good news of Jesus Christ - God’s word.

The Path

We begin with the seed that fell on the path and was eaten by birds. This represents people that hear the good news and it is stolen from them.

Rocky Ground

The seed that fell on rock ground with shallow soil sprouts immediately, but is scorched by the sun because it has no roots. This represents people that hear the good news and immediately receive it joyfully. However, when they fall away when they experience distress or challenges because of their faith.

Thorny Plants

The seed that fell among thorny plants are choked out and produce nothing. This represents people ones who have receive the good news, but their faith is choked out by worry and greed.

Good Soil

The seed that fell into good soil bears fruit. It represents those who hear the good news and embrace it. They bear fruit, in one case a yield of thirty to one, in another case sixty to one, and in another case one hundred to one. The roots of their faith grow deep.

Our Discipleship Pathway

What kind of soil is your soul?

Perhaps, more importantly, how do I make good soil in my soul?

Worship

Here at First United Methodist Church we believe that the spiritual practices of our discipleship pathway open us to God’s grace so that our soul can be transformed into good soil.

Transition

Let’s begin to take a closer look at good soil and the importance of worship.

Worship transforms the soil of our soul

Introduction to Video

In this video, Carroll and Becky share an introduction and a little bit about transformation.

Let's take a look...

[Play 2016-08-21 Sermon 2 - Introductions and Getting Started]¹



Video Transcript

Carroll: I'm Carroll Walters. This is my wife Becky. She came here in 1980. I came here in 1945.

Becky: What he didn't know was that I was never going to be able to ride a horse. I was scared to death of cattle. I couldn't drive a tractor. So, he had to let me plant something to be a part of this family farm of the Walters family, that I couldn't get into any trouble, so he let me go out in the field and plant my own pumpkins. So, that's what started it.

Carroll: She is a city girl. She's been transformed into a farm girl and she's done a very wonderful job.

Connection to Life

Transformation.

It is something that happens in our life and in our soul.

I wonder, Can you remember times in your life when you have experienced transformation of some kind or another?

Power of Worship

When we gather for worship, it is like sprinkling with water or cultivating the hard soil in our soul.

We pause to recognize that God is God and we are not.

We listen for God's word for us in song, scripture and sermon.

We open or deepen a connection between God's heart and our own.

Transformation

God uses the power of worship to transform us.

¹ This video clip is 51 seconds.

When we take time to focus on Christ, something happens in our life that is fundamentally good. Something changes in us. The soil of our soul is transformed.

Personal Example: God wants to Change Me

I believe that God is actually trying to change me.

I like to pretend that I have it all put together and sometimes I even feel that way.

The truth is, I don't have it all together

There are times when I ignore the needs of others, put my desires ahead of everything else and don't really care about those that are in need.

God desires more for me. God desires more for you.

God invites us to fall in perfect love with him and our neighbors.

Worship is one of the ways that God's grace works in our life to continue to bring about that transformation.

We will never become all that God dreams for us unless we worship.

Next Step

Worship transforms the soil of our soul.

When you worship, others notice.

Introduction to Video

When there is change in our lives, people notice. Carroll and Becky experienced this as they began planting pumpkins.

Let's take a look...

[Play 2016-08-21 Sermon 4 - What's he doing now?]²

Video Transcript

Becky: He was even more blessed when he was a traditional farmer - wheat, cattle, milo, and then he married a city gal and she started growing pumpkins. Now, the way I tell my fairy tale is if he'd have been a smart Prince Farming he would have locked me in the dungeon and he could have lived happily ever after, but, uh, Prince Farming had... his wife had other ideas for him.

² This video clip is 2 minutes and 3 seconds.

Carroll: When I was farming, I had several fields of crops and she begged me to let her have / plant pumpkins in an acre of it. And she made more on that acre, on pumpkins, than I did the rest of the fields with soybeans or... And ever since then, why, she / it made a believer out of me - that this is what we needed to do. Regardless of what the boys at the co-op thought.

When Becky started growing pumpkins one of the fields was visible from the highway. And you'd see 'em driving by, "What? What's he doing now?"

Becky: "What's he letting that city gal do to his farm ground?"

We had one neighbor that would come up here and go fishing - that has Mears Fertilizer there in El Dorado - he'd come up here for some relaxation to fish.

Well, the first year that we planted pumpkins we cut tree limbs off the trees and marked the hills. We didn't know we could plant the seeds in rows at that time. And so, we had all these sticks.

And he called one day and he said, "What are you... Are you planting an orchard or what is that?" I said, "That's the way we're marking our hills of pumpkins so we know where we put the seeds." Like I said, everybody in the community had an idea of what Carroll's wife was doing to his family farm and why Carroll would possibly let that city girl plant pumpkins.

Connection to Life

If it looks like you are planting an orchard where there is usually row crops or pasture, people notice.

When you make changes in your life, people take notice.

If you start coming to worship on Sunday morning, instead of your usual routine, people might say something.

Worship is an Environment for Transformation

Being in worship every week unless you are sick or out of town is our invitation.

Being here in this place,

being among these people,

intentionally listening for God,

offering ourselves back to God

all these things help create the environment for transformation to occur in our lives.

Others will Notice

When you live in this way, with worship as a regular part of your life, others notice – family members, friends, co-workers.

It may be the change in your Sunday morning routine,

perhaps others see the way that you are living your life differently.

Others may Question

Some people may think you are crazy.

Why in the world would you give up your Sunday morning to do that? to go there?

Because I know that I'm not yet all I could be and when I come to worship, I leave a little bit different.

Encouraged. Strengthened. Ready for the week.

Key Point

Worship transforms the soil of our soul in ways that people notice.

Worship Clip 3 - My Oasis

Introduction to Video

No matter how old you are or what you do during the day, we all need places and times of peace. Becky describes one of these places on the farm.

Let's take a look...

[Play 2016-08-21 Sermon 6 - My Oasis]³

Video Transcript

I call it my oasis. Carroll laughed at me because one year we'd had a lot of rain and there was water running down from this little pool of water that was coming from nowhere - the water was running down. So, I had this guy come and do some landscaping with some big rocks. Well, we've been dry ever since, so the water hasn't run anywhere but the rocks are still there.

And then, one day Carroll was down there trying to kind of clean it up a little bit.

It was just a peaceful place for me - just a quiet, peaceful place.

And Carroll says, "That's an old well, there's pipes down in there."

So, it wasn't an act of God with an oasis. Somebody, at one time or other, dug a well down there. I called it the frog pond, because you could always see little tadpoles swimming around in it.

Connection to Life

Do you have a place like that?

A place that is quiet, peaceful, and even, sacred?

³ This video clip is 48 seconds.

Worship is like an Old Well

Worship is like that old well.

People have been gathering to worship God for hundreds and thousands of years.

People have been gathering here in this sanctuary for decades to worship.

Worship brings humility

When we worship, we come into God's presence and declare God to be God.

Worship brings humility. We are not at the center of the universe. People have come before us and others will come after us.

God is so big. We humble ourselves in response to the awesomeness of God.

Next Step

Worship transforms the soil of our soul by bringing humility

Clip 4 - It's God's Land

Introduction to Video

[Play 2016-08-21 Sermon
8 - It's God's Land]⁴

Video Transcript

Every morning this time of year, I leave the house around 5 o'clock. And, it's not light yet. But, I always... I can always work in the shop building things, or whatever needs to be done.

But this morning, I took, um... I went to the pastures to check cattle and take mineral out. And the sun was just coming up.

There is nothing more beautiful than being out on the prairie when the sun is coming up. And, it just... There is nothing out there, but cattle and jack rabbits, and my dog, that chases the jackrabbits, or tries too. But it's just peaceful. It is just...

See, there are so many wildflowers out in the pastures right now. And it just...

It is really neat.

It is God's land.

⁴ This video clip is 1 minute and 8 seconds.

Connection to Life

We live in a beautiful place here in our communities. It is, indeed, God's land.

Connection to Scripture and Worship

Worship is a beautiful place to meet God.

It is a sacred time.

It is a moment that is set apart.

Personal Example: Closer to God

I know that God is with me all the time, and yet, it seems that during worship I experience God in a way that is meaningful and significant. Somehow different than every day.

This happens when we place ourselves close to the most good and righteous being in the universe. This sanctuary was built to remind us that God is close. The stained glass, the soaring ceilings - just being in this place reminds us that when we gather for worship, God is close at hand.

When we worship, we come to know the transcendent, beautiful and all that is good. We come close to God.

Next Step

Worship transforms the soil of our soil by bringing closeness to God.

Conclusion

Good News

The good news is that worship can change us. We become more like Christ.

Call to Action

My invitation for you is to be in worship every week.

Take a chance on worship being a priority for you.

Invite a friend to join you for worship, as we consider what it means to worship, grow, give, serve and share.

Allow worship to bring humility and closeness to God.

Worship is powerful

People come each week and may need courage, comfort, assurance, forgiveness, grace, encouragement, conviction. Lives can be changed just because they gather to worship.

Worship is powerful. It is beautiful, a respite from the rest of the world, and a place to be revitalized and recharged.

When we worship we give ourselves to God.

Invitation

You may find yourself saying, I think I want a life like that.
I want my faith to be evident in the way that I live my life.
I want to follow Jesus and experience the power of the resurrection.

You can.
All you have to do is ask.

I'm sorry. Thank you. Please.

It's a very simple thing to pray – I am sorry. Thank you. Please.
Turning away from the things that we know are wrong, saying “I am sorry”.
Thanking Jesus for dying and being raised for us; putting our faith in him.
And finally asking, ‘Please come and fill me with your Spirit.’

Not ready to pray

You may not be sure if you want to pray a prayer like that and that's okay. If you are curious about Jesus and being part of a Christian community, then I invite you to get connected here at First United Methodist Church. We would to help you find out more.

Ready to pray

And, if you would like to pray, then:
it may be the very first time in your life to pray something like this,
it may be the first time for you in a long time, or
it may be a prayer that you have prayed every day for a long time.

Logistics

You do not have to pray it out loud, but just quietly under your breath.
You can repeat after me.
I'm sorry, thank you, please.

Closing

[Include connections which are contextual to the sermon]

God is with us.
Jesus is alive.
You can follow him today.
Will you pray with me?

Closing Prayer

Jesus, I am sorry for all the times in my life when I mess up.

And if anything comes to mind, ask God's forgiveness.

14th Sunday after Pentecost
Lessons from a Pumpkin Farm
Good Soil: The Importance of Worship
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado
Text Online at <http://bit.ly/2aPCFAN>

August 21, 2016
Matthew 13:3-9
Preaching Target Word Count: 1,828
Audio Online at: <http://bit.ly/2bF36V1>
Video Online at: <http://bit.ly/2b8siYM>

Forgive me of my sin and all that I know is wrong.
Thank you that you died on the cross and rose for me.
I trust you with my life.
Help me receive your forgiveness.
Please fill me with your Spirit and help me to follow you.
In your holy name, Amen.