

07-12-26 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“We are soil with hearts and brains. Thinking, feeling human beings raised from that same soil, from dust, to become filled with spirit. We can think, we can consider, we can question, we can pray. And through his parables, Jesus calls us to be good soil, to bear fruit and produce.”

John Adcox



Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Questions for Reflection —

- In what type of soil do you think your faith is presently growing? How often do you assess the condition of your soil? What helps you to do so? What does it look like for you to be good soil, prepared to receive and act on God’s Word? What will help you maintain soil that allows you to be rooted and grounded in your faith and able to persist in following God’s call for your life? How might we as a congregation nurture good soil? What can we do, as cultivators of the soil from which faith sprouts and grows—to encourage, and sustain faithfulness in promoting God’s kingdom of justice, mercy, peace, and love?

- What are the seed-snatching birds and choking thorns in your life presently? What cares of the world or worries about daily life are currently competing for your time and energy? What needs to be weeded from the garden of your life? What patterns and habits keep you from receiving God’s Word and following God’s way? What will open your heart to hearing God’s Word, understanding it, and sowing seeds of God’s grace in the lives of others?

- What does it look like for you to flourish? What does it mean for you to bear the fruit of God’s kingdom? When you reflect on your spiritual journey in what ways do you see evidence of fruitful growth? In what aspects of your spiritual life do you desire further growth? What is the fruit God is presently calling you to cultivate? How can we as a congregation support one another so that God’s Word will continue to grow and flourish in each of us individually and in our corporate whole?

Daily Household Prayer

O good and generous God, You have sown the seed of Your Word in our hearts. Nourish that Word by our worship today, so that Your Word may grow and flourish in us, and so that in all our lives we may bear the fruit of Your love.