

07-26-26 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“God's Kingdom is hidden in plain sight, but often the trappings of this world prevent us from seeing and seeking what matters most. But those who seek God and God's Kingdom with all of their heart, soul, mind, and strength will find it and give themselves fully to it even, sacrificing worldly belongings for eternal reward.”

Donna Giver-Johnston



Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Questions for Reflection —

- What does the concept of the kingdom of heaven mean to you? In what ways is the kingdom of heaven a present reality and not just a future outcome? How would you contrast the values of God's kingdom with various cultural norms and expectations? What helps you notice signs of God's kingdom in day-to-day life? Where do you currently see signs of the inbreaking of God's kingdom into our world?
- What holy treasure have you discovered in your life of faith? What worldly treasure are you holding onto that prevents your acquiring the treasure to be found in fully embracing the life of faith? How does your use of time and material possessions reflect your commitment to life in God's kingdom? How do your priorities, decisions, words, and actions align with God's kingdom? What does it look like to seek God's kingdom first?
- What does it mean for you to live a kingdom life in the present? How can you place your whole self and all you have in service to the kingdom of heaven? How is God calling you to use your talents and gifts to manifest God's kingdom in your workplace or school, your neighborhood, and your larger community? What does it mean for us as a congregation to live out our lives together in God's kingdom of heaven here on earth? How are our programs and ministries making God's kingdom visible for those around us?

Daily Household Prayer

God of grace, You have poured Your love on us. You have given us the seeds of hope and compassion. You have called us the treasure that is meant to enrich the world. Help us be those people who are so confident in Your presence that we dare to step out in faith, to work for You in places of need and strife; to witness to Your love in all that we do, proclaiming Your presence with our mouths and our actions. Give us Your guidance, Your forgiveness, and courage to be at work in Your kingdom. AMEN