

# Worship Service “Miscarriages and Mustard Seeds”

5th Sunday of Pentecost, Year A

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 CEV / Mark 4:30-32 MSG

## Prelude

Opening Music (Video) [\*His Eye Is On The Sparrow\*](#)

performed by Keith and Krystin Getty,

performed and posted to YouTubeUMG (on behalf of Getty Music (GTM));  
Warner Chappell, BMI - Broadcast Music Inc., UNIAO BRASILEIRA DE  
EDITORAS DE MUSICA - UBEM, Sony Music Publishing, LatinAutorPerf, Wise  
Music Group, LatinAutor - UMPG, and 2 Music Rights Societies

## Welcome/Announcements

Welcome! It’s good to see you here this morning.

We are blessed this morning to have Dan Stern with us this morning to share our message and join us for worship and fellowship. You can read more about him in the bio in our bulletin. We welcome you, Pastor Dan, it’s good to have you!

It’s a pretty quiet week on the church calendar.

Do we have any other announcements this morning?....

Let’s share the joy and peace of Christ with each other.

## Pass the Peace

Opening Hymn      *Here in This Place*      6

## Call to Worship (responsive)

Leader: How shall we sing the Lord’s song  
in a land of suffering?

**People: We shall sing of courage and the strength of the Lord.**

Leader: How shall we sing the Lord’s song  
when we feel so lonely?

**People: We shall sing of unity and faithfulness,  
of reconciliation and hope.**

Leader: Come, let us sing the Lord’s song this day.

**People: Let us praise God in all our ways forever.**

## Invocation (In Unison)

God of widows and orphans, and the consolation of the sad,  
We, your people, thirst and become hungry in so many ways.  
Yet You repeatedly replenish us.

By the healing charisma of your true Son,  
may the broken find wholeness, may the lost find a home,  
may closed eyes and ears be opened,  
may handicaps be overcome, may disease yield to health,  
and may those who are dead be raised up to ever love, worship and serve you.

Our first scripture reading this morning is a Psalm in video format. Let's hear the words of the psalmist together.

## Psalm of the Day    Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 CEV

It is wonderful to be grateful and to sing your praises,,Lord Most High!

It is wonderful each morning to tell about your love and at night to announce how faithful you are.

I enjoy praising your name to the music of harps,

because everything you do makes me happy, and I sing joyful songs.

Good people will prosper like palm trees, and they will grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon.

They will take root in your house, Lord God, and they will do well.

They will be like trees that stay healthy and fruitful, even when they are old.

And they will say about you,

“The Lord always does right! God is our mighty rock.”

## Scripture Video

[Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15](#)

Douglas Brown

## A Time of Prayer

We come to our time to share our joys and concerns, and lift them together in prayer. What do we have to lift up this morning?

## Joys and Concerns

## Pastoral Prayer

God, you insert yourself into the affairs of humankind through Jesus, the Messiah, because no earthly leaders are able to redeem the world you love so deeply. You have spoken. You will accomplish it.

Heavenly Father, even as you planted the majestic cedar tree and made it tall, so you also have brought us forth to bear fruit, in every age---even in old age.

Lord Jesus Christ, help us look at you and others with the spiritual eyes of faith, knowing that we are your new creation. Even as you died and rose for us, urge us to live and care for others.

You kingdom, Lord God, is a seed-planting kingdom. Help the kernel of life in every shell of every single body gathered here for worship, split and sprout like seed in good soil, always looking forward to your day of harvest.

Holy Spirit, nations and leaders rise and fall like trees in a storm. In this age give us the wisdom to depend upon God's holy promises and commands, as our primary guides in life.

Help us minister to those who need their health restored, their hope invigorated, their love rekindled. Bring us a joy greater than happiness, a love beyond imagination, and may our last illness bring us to your throne of grace. Hear us as we pray for one another.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

The love of God has won. The new life has begun. Amen.

Let's join together in our second hymn, For the beauty of the earth. You may remain seated for this one.

**Hymn**

***For the Beauty of the Earth***

**89**

**Gospel Reading**

**Mark 4:30-32** paraphrased from *The Message*  
*(Pastor Dan)*

“How can we picture God’s kingdom? What kind of story can we use?  
It’s like an acorn. When it lands on the ground it is quite small as seeds go,  
yet once it is planted it grows into a huge oak tree with thick branches.  
Eagles nest in it.”

**Message – *Miscarriages and Mustard Seeds* – Rev. Dan Stern**

## **Message Talk-Back (Pastor Dan)**

### **Call to Serve**

We know the reward of God's welcome.

The Holy Spirit has blown through us so that we sing of God's steadfast love continually.

Now, gathered here as prophets of welcome, we respond to what God has done.

We give our gifts of tithes and offerings in the certain hope that God's welcome will continue in the ministry we offer.

As we listen to the following interlude, let's reflect on what we've experienced today, and how that might affect our lives in the coming weeks and months.

### **A Time for Reflection**

### **The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Join with me in prayer

Welcoming One, bless these gifts with your Spirit

Transform these gifts into the balm that your world needs.

In these gifts, may we welcome in a new world of love. Amen.

Let's stand as we share our final hymn, In the bulb there is a flower

**Hymn**     *In the Bulb There is a Flower*

**614**

**Benediction**     *(Pastor Dan)*

**Postlude**