

St. John's Presbyterian Church

2nd Sunday after Epiphany



January 16, 2022
10:30 a.m.

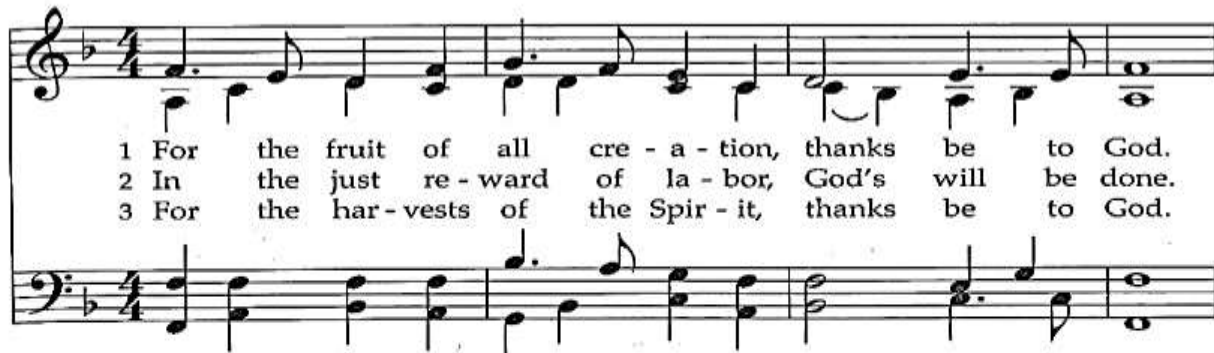
1070 W. Plumb Lane
Reno, Nevada 89509
(775) 826-0990

Website
www.stjohnschurch.org

Church Calendar
www.stjohnschurch.view-events.com

For the Fruit of All Creation

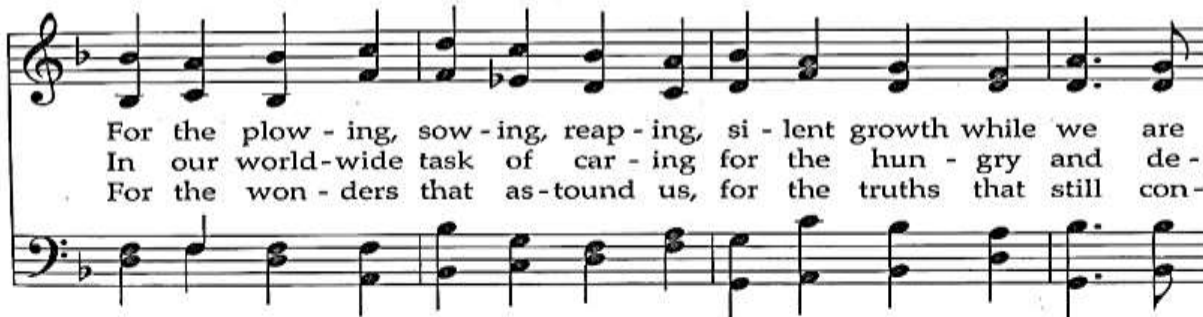
36



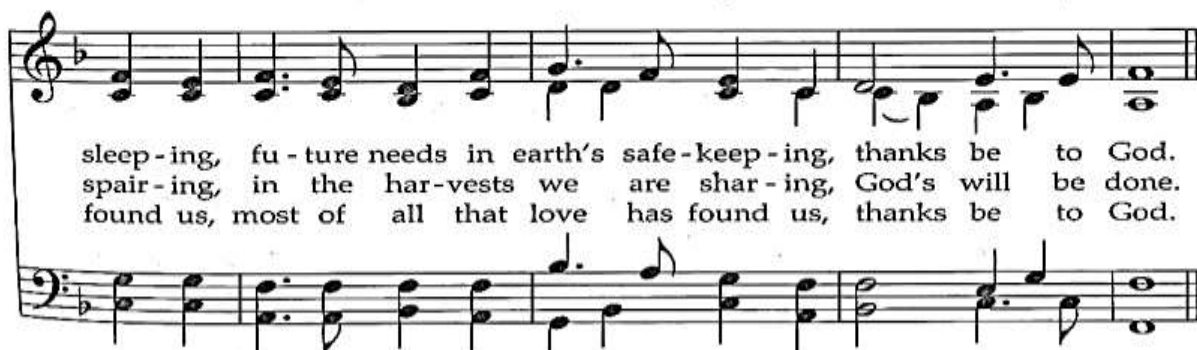
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1970, alt.
 MUSIC: Welsh melody, c. 1784
 Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company

AR HYDY NOS
 8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4

*Please stand in Body or Spirit
BOLD People Response

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Congregational Introit *As the Deer* —Glory to God: the Presbyterian Hymnal No. 626
As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after You.

You alone are my heart's desire, And I long to worship You.

You alone are my strength, my shield; To You alone may my spirit yield.

You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship You.

Call to Worship

Leader: Not many of us sow fields much anymore.

People: The closest we may come is the seeding of our own lawns.

Leader: If we want to reap a lush green lawn, we must be generous with seeding.

People: If we sparingly sow the seed, the lawn will be thin, prone to weeds and disease.

Leader: We are lush lawn people, who understand that we reap what we sow.

People: We gather in church, to sow the spirit of God,

Leader: To reap the same we sow and more,

People: For God's spirit multiplies with the planting and grows more rich, full, and beautiful when we open our hearts, letting the love seeds grow.

*Hymn No. 36 *For the Fruit of All Creation* See page 1
—Glory To God, The Presbyterian Hymnal

*Call to Confession

Leader: We know that we have not lived according to God's desires for us. The brokenness in the world, and the sin and despair in our hearts, threaten to consume us as a mighty flood. Yet God is our hope and our firm foundation. Let us confess our sin before our gracious God.

*Prayer of Confession

Father, you are so patient with us. You have told us that if we nourish the seeds, they will grow and produce beyond what we can even imagine. Yet that seems impossible for our doubting hearts. We have seen your miracles, we have experienced your work in our lives, and we still question you and hesitate to believe you are always good. Give us faith to believe you, Father.
(Silent Prayer) **Amen.**

*Hymn *Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)* —The Hymnal 1982, Published C. 1985

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; grant us peace.

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. In our forgiveness, may we blossom fully with purpose and resolve, so that the world will know us by our love.

*Please stand in Body or Spirit
BOLD People Response

*Hymn

Glory Be to the Father

—The Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 577

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.**

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination

**Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may
see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace;
through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 119:105-112

¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

¹⁰⁶I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.

¹⁰⁷I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word.

¹⁰⁸Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your ordinances.

¹⁰⁹I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.

¹¹⁰The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.

¹¹¹Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

¹¹²I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

Anthem

Chancel Choir

New Testament Lesson

Luke 8:4-15

⁴When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: ⁵"A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. ⁷Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. ⁸Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" ⁹Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰He said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that 'looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand.'" ¹¹"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. ¹⁴As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance."

Sermon

Parable Power

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison

Hymn No. 171

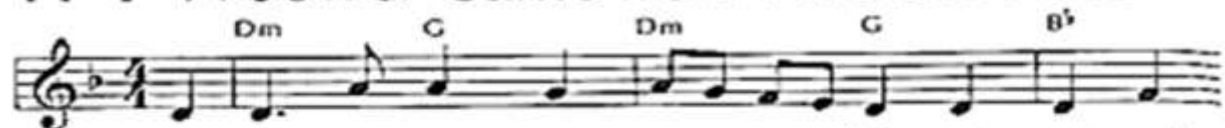
A Sower Came from Ancient Hills

See page 4

—Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal

*Please stand in Body or Spirit
BOLD People Response

171 A Sower Came from Ancient Hills



1 A Sow - er came from an - cient hills and cast good
 2 A Sow - er walked through - out the land and, ev - ery -
 3 The Seed was bur - ied deep in death be - neath a
 4 O Christ, you come a - mong us still, the Sow - er



seed a - broad: his field, ten thou - sand hu - man hearts; his
 where he trod, he sowed his life be - cause he was him -
 blood - red sky, and deep - er still was bur - ied hope for
 and the Seed. As once you sowed the truth of God in



seed, the word of God. And some who lis - tened would not
 self the Seed of God. But then, a - top a bar - ren
 those who watched him die. But then, in Jo - seph's gar - den
 glow - ing word and deed, im - plant your Word in wait - ing



hear, and some who heard for - got. But some re - ceived in
 hill, be - neath a dark - ening sky, they threw God's Seed on
 fair, as dawn broke o'er the land, the Seed, from three days'
 hearts, and let it there take hold, un - til it bears in



fer - tile soil the truth the Sow - er taught.
 ston - y ground and left it there to die.
 si - lent sleep, a - woke at God's com - mand!
 fruit - ful lives a har - vest hun - dred - fold.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

All three synoptic gospels record both the telling and the explanation of Jesus' parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:3-8, 18-23/Mark 4:3-8, 14-20/Luke 8:5-8, 11-15). Because the seed equals "the word," Jesus (as the Word made flesh) becomes the Seed in this expansion of the parable.

TEXT: Herman G. Staempfie Jr., 1998
 MUSIC: John D. Norman, 2005
 Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.
 Music © 2003 Zimbel Press

SEACRIST
CND

*Please stand in Body or Spirit
BOLD People Response

Call to Offertory
Offertory

*Offertory Response

Doxology

—The Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 592

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

*Affirmation of Faith

We believe that God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so.

We believe that the earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.

And we believe God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food."

We affirm that all tithes from the land, whether the seed from the ground or the fruit from the tree, are the LORD'S; they are holy to the LORD.

We believe that in our Lord we can know what it is to have little, and we can know what it is to have plenty, because we can do all things through him who strengthens us.

We believe that he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply our seed for sowing and increase the harvest of our righteousness, and that we will be enriched in every way as we cultivate the fruit of the Spirit called generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us.

*Hymn No. 462

I Love to Tell the Story

See page 7

—Glory to God: the Presbyterian
Hymnal

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response

Go with Us, Lord

—Glory to God: the Presbyterian Hymnal, No 748

**Go with us Lord, and guide the way
Through this and every coming day,
That in Your Spirit strong and true
Our lives may be our gift to You.**

Postlude

*Please stand in Body or Spirit
BOLD People Response

462

I Love to Tell the Story

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else could do.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

This text is drawn from the second part of a fifty-stanza poem on the life of Christ written in 1866, during the author's recovery from a serious illness. The tune named for her first appeared three years later, and the composer was responsible for the creation of the refrain.

TEXT: Katherine Hankey, 1866; ref. William G. Fischer, 1869
 MUSIC: William G. Fischer, 1869

HANKEY
 7.6.7.6.D with refrain

*Please stand in Body or Spirit
BOLD People Response

