

## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AT VALLEY FORGE

July 12, 2020

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*The United Church of Christ at Valley Forge, following in the Way of Jesus, is called by God to deepen our relationships with the Spirit and our faith community that we will be empowered to reach out widely to our neighbors in love, justice, hospitality, healing, and hope.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** God scatters the seeds of reconciliation and love, and waits....

**People:** *So much of it lands on flat pathways or rocky roads and won't take root....*

**Leader:** God scatters the seeds of healing and hope, and waits....

**People:** *Shallowness and fear claim the seeds and they cannot live.*

**Leader:** God scatters the seeds of redemption and peace, and waits....

**People:** *These are the places of deep growth where the seed will cast down strong roots.*

**Leader:** Welcome this day to a seed-scattering station!

**People:** *May our hearts be the rich soil in which God's love takes root. AMEN.*

### GATHERING SONG

“ (Lord, Let My Heart be) Good Soil”  
Hand Handson

### CONFESSION

*Seed-scattering God, we come to you this day with so many things on our hearts and minds. Some of the events this week have been very positive and have caused us to celebrate; but we are constantly besieged by worries, doubts and fears. These negative things crowd out your word and we become like the useless soil, unable to receive and grow. Slow us down. Continue to pour your love on us because we really hunger and thirst for it. Forgive us when we allow all the negativity to drown out your word. Scatter again the seeds of peace, love, hope and joy that we may be better disciples for you in this world which is in so much pain. Try new parables on us until we think and understand. Argue with us until we do your will. AMEN.*

### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

### SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

### THE MESSAGE

“Sower, Seed, Soil”

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Centering Silence/Pastoral Prayers/Spoken or Silent Prayers/  
Silence for Listening Prayer/Lord's Prayer*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debts/debtors*)

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.*

*Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,*

*For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.*

### CLOSING SONG

“O God in Whom All Life Begins”

Traditional English Melody  
Tune: NOEL  
Lyrics: Carl P. Daw, Jr

**BENEDICTION**