

Genesis 2:4-9  
Psalm 104:1, 24-33  
Romans 8:18-25  
Luke 8:4-15

## **Sermon April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**

### *The New Life of Spring!*

Our worship service celebrates the season of Spring. The season where we see the death of winter. The cold, snowy winter. Give way to new life. Where the sun feels warmer. Where the snow turns to water and rain. Quenching the thirst of God's creation. Where the bare trees start to bud. Where the plants start to sprout. Where the garden seed breaks through the soil. Where the new green blades of grass grow in place of the ugly brownish yellow grass. Where some of the animals start to come out of hibernation with their young. Where the waters unfreeze, moving again with energy and life. Spring is a season where we bear witness to God's gift of new life ,

Well, like the season of Spring, our Bible readings this morning reflect this gift of new life. In our Genesis story we see the beginning of life. God brings forth rain on the earth, giving life to the trees and plants. God works the soil with God's hands to create us, breathing God's spirit into our molded bodies. Giving us life,

In Paul's letter to the Romans, Paul sees the suffering not only of the Christians who are being persecuted, but also, of all God's creation. In response to the groaning pains of the Earth, Paul proclaims this promise that God will redeem all of Creation. God will breathe new life into us, as God did to Jesus, and his movement on Easter morning. That even though we suffer, and eventually die, nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

In our gospel, Jesus shares a parable about seeds. Seeds that fall in different places as the Farmer seeds the land. Some of these seeds fall on the pathway. Some on the rocks. Some do make it into the soil, but are surrounded by weeds. Then some seeds make it into the rich soil, and bring forth a bountiful harvest.

When Jesus explains this parable to his disciples, he says that the seed is the Word of God. And that sometimes we have trouble hearing the Word, or receiving the Word, or living out this Word. Whether the Word isn't being proclaimed in a way that connects with us, or we are distracted, busy, unable to hear the Word, or we don't like what the Word is trying to say to us.

Yet, when we do hear, receive, and live out this Word, our eyes are open to see where God is at work in the world breathing new life into the winters of creation. Bringing forth Spring. Whether it is the healing of a broken relationship, or reigniting a passion inside you, or guiding you down a new path, or finding a solution to a long-lasting problem, or

seeing the reclamation of a piece of land, or believing that your loved one is now in paradise with thee.

When we do hear, receive, and live out the Word, we bear witness to the new life God has to offer us.

In our worship we celebrate Spring, where we see God's gift of new life all around us, but we also, reflect on the church season we are in. Easter! Where we see God's promise of new life come to fruition in the resurrected Christ, who reveals to us that death does not defeat life. Instead, God breathes new life into us, and into everyone and everything that dies.

It is this Easter story that inspires and energizes the disciples to keep proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to the people even in the midst of persecution. It is this Easter story that keeps inspiring and energizing the church today to keep proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ, even as our churches struggle with declining memberships and financial support. It is this Easter story that keeps inspiring and energizing us to live out God's hospitality, grace, healing, and redemption in the world. Even if at times it seems like the world isn't listening or responsive to it.

In our worship service we celebrate Spring and Easter, two seasons that come together every year to show us that even when we stand in the face of winter, in the face of the cross, in the face of death, God continues to breathe new life in us.

Let us pray, gracious God, we give thanks for the gift of Spring that opens our eyes to see the new life you breathe into all of your creation. We give thanks for the Easter season, and the resurrected Christ, that inspires and energizes us to keep proclaiming your good news through our words and deeds even as we bear our crosses. **Amen.**

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