

TRINITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH (PCA)

BIBLE BELIEVING † CHRIST CENTERED † GRACE FILLED † GOSPEL DRIVEN



Worship for the Lord's Day

February 7th, 2021 • 10:45 A.M.

Trinity Fellowship Church exists to glorify God by equipping a community of believers to worship God and be witnesses of Him in Central Arkansas and to the ends of the earth.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’”

– Luke 8:10

Jesus tells us that He speaks in parables to hide the secrets of the kingdom from some and reveal them to others. This does not mean His parables are full of esoteric information that only a select few can grasp with their minds. Christ’s enemies often understand exactly what His parables mean; the problem is their refusal to trust His teaching about Himself and God’s kingdom.

Though today’s parable is more commonly named after the sower of the seed, the “parable of the soils” is a more fitting title. The role of the sower in the story is important, but the parable’s point is twofold: first, to explain why different soils—different people—respond differently to the Gospel and, second, to invite us to examine ourselves to think about the kind of soil we hope to be.

The parable and its explanation are straightforward enough. All of the first three people portrayed are ultimately hard in heart, but the hardness is especially clear in the person described in verses 5 and 12 since that individual never shows an interest in the Gospel. His heart is calcified to the point where it resists all penetration by the seed, which is devoured by the Evil One and his minions, who were often represented by birds in first-century Jewish literature.

Those who fall away after professing faith are represented by the second and third soils. Without solid rooting in good soil, plants will wither and die under the sun’s heat. Similarly, some people appear to be thriving believers until persecution reveals their true colors. Others, like vegetation choked by weeds, are strangled by the cares of this world and the love of money.

Yet the fourth soil is notably different. This one understands and bears fruit—he accepts and conforms his life to the Gospel. Matthew Henry writes: “That which distinguished this good ground from the rest, was, in one word, fruitfulness. He does not say that this good ground has no stones in it, or no thorns; but there were none that prevailed to hinder its fruitfulness.” Stones or thorns may be found in the good soil of a true believer’s heart, but such obstructions do not finally prevent him from bearing fruit.

Celebration of Worship

Greeting and Announcements

Prelude

*During this time, be prayerful and reverent in preparation
for the worship of our holy God in His sanctuary.
(Please silence all phones and electronic devices.)*

† Call to Worship

Ephesians 1:3–14

Leader: *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

† Hymn of Praise

Hymns of Grace

Come, Praise and Glorify

Nº 44

† Please stand, as able

† Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession

Hosea 10:12

Leader: *Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.*

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Hard Hearts from Streams of Mercy

Unison: Father of mercies, we confess before you that our chief problem is not the sin of our hands and lips, but the hardness of our hearts. Though we love you and have tasted deeply of your mercy, our hearts are often cold and stony—slow to bear fruit for you. Although we are no match for the depravity that we find in ourselves, we praise you that our hearts are never beyond your power to change and rescue. Father, thank you for your mercy and love.

Jesus, thank you that your heart was constantly soft and receptive to your Father's Word. That Word took root in the good soil of your life and bore abundant fruit of humility, service, self-sacrifice, and worship. Thank you that it was for us, and that now, when your Father looks at us, he sees the fruitful soil of your life, not the rocky and barren wilderness of ours.

Holy Spirit, break up the fallow ground in our lives. Help us to long for the day when our hard and stony hearts will be fully melted and broken up, replaced with hearts of flesh, so that we shall bear fruit for you for all eternity. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Ezekiel 36:25–28

Leader: *“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.”*

† **Hymn of Trust**
Hymns of Grace

Jesus Paid It All
N^o 281

Prayers of the People

*God calls us to be a praying people.
Let us join in prayer, offering our praise,
thanksgiving, and intercession to God.*

Offertory

*Our offering is an act of worship in which we express our gratitude and reliance on God.
For those of you who are guests with us today, giving is not obligatory.
We are eager to share with you more about our church and its ministry
and to invite you to participate with us as you are called by God.
Tithes and offerings may be placed in the plates in the narthex,
or you may give online at trinityfellowshippca.org/give,
or by texting GIVE to 501-456-4896.*

† **Doxology**

Hymns of Grace

N^o 440

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

† **Prayer of Dedication**

Reading of Scripture

ESV Pew Bible

Luke 8:4–15

p. 865

Sermon

Rev. Brad DeVries

“Ears to Hear”

† **Hymn of Preparation**

Hymns of Grace

See the Destined Day Arise

N^o 298

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

We welcome all baptized Christians who have professed their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation and are members of congregations that proclaim the gospel to receive holy communion with us.

We serve gluten-free bread and your choice of grape juice (colored cups, outer ring) or wine (clear cups, inner rings)‡

† Hymn of Response

Hymns of Grace

He Will Hold Me Fast

N^o 388

† Benediction

† Recessional Hymn

Hymns of Grace

Benediction (v. 2)

N^o 438

May this peace which passes understanding,
and this grace which makes us what we are,
And the fellowship of His communion
make us one in spirit and in heart.

And to Him be praise for His glorious reign,
from the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n;
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain,
Christ eternal, the King of kings.

Postlude

*As you leave the sanctuary today, may you know the hope to which God has called you,
experience the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,
and trust his incomparably great power for us who believe.*

*Please help us love our community by recycling your unneeded bulletins as you leave.
A recycling bin is located by the door in the narthex.*

‡ As the elements are distributed, please wait until all are served so that we may partake together.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newsletter ▶ The February Newsletter is now available. Hardcopies of the newsletter can be found in the narthex.

Fellowship Lunch ▶ Our monthly Fellowship Lunch will be Sunday, February 14th, following the worship service. The Heidelberg Small Group is responsible for setting up for the Fellowship Lunch.

Small Groups ▶ Small Groups will meet next Sunday following the Fellowship Lunch.

Virtual Missions Conference ▶ Plan to join us on the weekend of February 19th for food, fellowship, prayer, and reflection on the mission of the church. We will host a watch party for content provided by MTW, hear from supported missionaries, and consider the great privilege of partnering in God's mission to grow his kingdom. This is a free event, but we will be asking for volunteers to help with food and children's activities. A schedule for the weekend can be found in the February Newsletter.

Assisted Listening Devices ▶ Assisted Listening Devices can be found on the narthex table. Please talk to Heath if you have any questions.



Women's Bible Study ▶ The Women's Bible Study meets weekly on Wednesdays at the church. The morning group meets at 9:30 and the evening group meets at 6:30. Contact Katie DeVries for more information.

Men's Prayer Group ▶ The Men's Prayer Group meets weekly on Thursdays at 6:00 A.M. at the church. Contact Ron Plate for more information.

Men's Zoom Group ▶ The Men's Zoom Group meets weekly on Thursdays at 12:00 P.M. via Zoom. Contact Brad DeVries for more information.

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MISSIONARIES

Austin Braasch RUF at Arkansas State; Jonesboro
Dan Anderson Central Hope Church; Little Rock
Del Farris MNA Ministry to State; Colorado
Michelle Hill CRU/FamilyLife; Little Rock
Mike and Eli Sabin MTW; Guam
Tom and Karen Mirabella MTW; Chiba, Japan
Union Rescue Mission Little Rock



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