



Virtual Worship
July 12, 2020

Words of Welcome & Announcements ~ Jan Richardson

Candle Lighting and Time to Focus:

As we reflect on this picture *The Sower*, by Vincent van Gogh, let's ponder the precious bits of life that sail through the air. Where will they land? How will they grow? Who will nurture them?

Gathering Words:

Loving God, Your Spirit is like fire,

Illuminate us!

Your word is like water,

Refresh us!

Your grace is wider than the horizon,

Expand us!

Your love is for this world,

Secure us!

Be with us through your grace.

Amen.

Hymn: *Called by Earth and Sky*, #135 MV

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Opening Reflection ~ A parable... (based on Matthew 13:1-9,18-23)

written/shared by: roddy g hamilton

<https://newkilpatrickblog.typepad.com/files/spill-the-beans-issue-12-1.pdf>

There is an old, old story of a farmer
who with great sweeps of his arm
scattered seed
hither and thither
across his land

good seed
healthy seed
each holding within it
a 100 ears of corn
lingering in every dry husk

a waiting potential
a longing promise
a birth of future

and each bounced
as they scattered

across the land
They shimmered in the sun
caught by shards of light
that were going to stretch them
and pull them up
from the earth
Just a brushing glint
as they boomeranged
through the sky
and scrambled
across the field

Then each was left helpless
thrown into corners they never chose
to go
abandoned on land they never chose
to take root
some among thistles

strangled between weeds
helpless over rocks
scorched on pathways
and left there
left there

to fend for themselves
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A Reading from Isaiah 55:10-13

God gives seed to the one who sows.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;

it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Creator for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Seed Meditation

Author: [Teresa Burnett-Cole](#) / Categories: [Liturgy](#), [Spirituality](#) /

<https://revtbc.com/Musings/ArtMID/20093/ArticleID/27/Seed-Meditation>

Sung Response: *Take, O Take Me as I Am #85 MV*

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Minister's Message

Prayers of the People

Please join in response to each petition:

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For all the blessings of this life,
we give thanks to You, Creator God.
For families, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and strangers,
who nurture us, that the love of God may grow within.
That Your love, your Word, like a seed,
may grow to produce in us, good fruit.
May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For the leaders of various nations and cities,
that they may lead with strong hearts and gentle hands and generous spirits,
with compassion and mercy, with wisdom and grace.
May they reflect your will guiding all their actions and decisions.
May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who serve in harms way,
those who live in dangerous places,
those who live in areas of war and strife,
those who live in fear,

those who worry about employment, bills, food,
and struggle just to find dignity in life.
May your grace bring peace and safety to all people, one to another.
May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who suffer from any illness or dis-ease—
of mind, body, or spirit.
Restore these, and all those we carry in our hearts, to fullness of health—
health as only you, O God, can bring.
May your mercy shower each of us with healing mercy and love.
May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who are dying, and for those who have died.
Send forth your comforting love.
Give solace to those who mourn.
Console those who grieve.
May your grace surround us
like a mantle upon our heads,
a shawl upon our shoulders,
a hand, to hold our hand.
May your love, be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.
Amen

— written by Terri and posted on **RevGalBlogPals**. <http://revgalblogpals.blogspot.ca/>

Hymn: *In the Bulb There Is a Flower* #703 VU

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Closing Prayer: God of Harvest

God of harvest,
gardener supreme,
you place us at the centre,
feed us, equip us and,
having provided for us,
look to a different harvest—
a fruitfulness of lives
in service to you
and others.
God of harvest,
feed us
prune us
harvest us
that our lives
might bring glory to you.

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