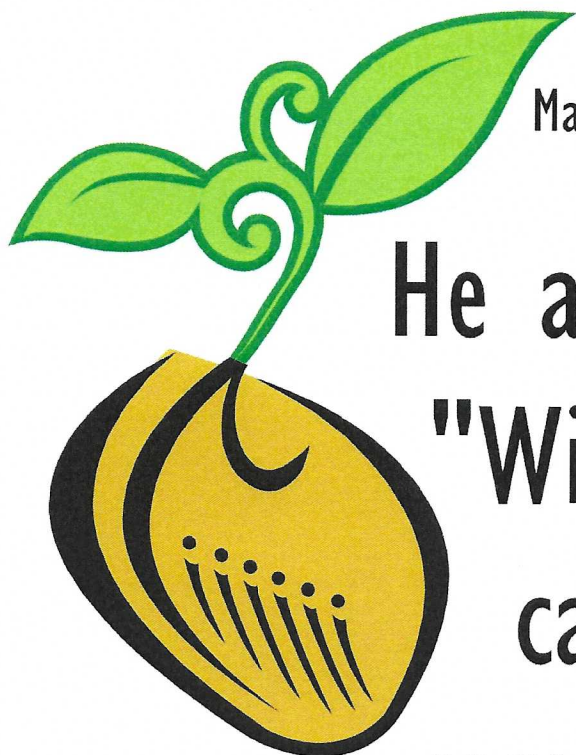


# East Parish United Methodist Church

Established 1834

*East Parish is a Church open to all, which nurtures and enables people to experience God's transforming love and serve others in Jesus' name.*



Mark 40:30-31 NRSV

He also said,  
"With what  
can we  
compare  
the kin-dom of  
God ...? It is like  
a mustard seed ..."

**June 13, 2021**

**Third Sunday after Pentecost**

*The Book of Remembrance is opened to the Glory of  
God, in loving memory of Ethel G. (Merrill) Rogers.*

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

If you wish to become a member of our church family, or to be baptized, contact Pastor Wichmann at nan\_wich@bellsouth.net

**\* OPENING HYMN**      *"How Firm a Foundation"*      **#529 (insert)**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 20)

**L:** May God answer you in the day of trouble!

**P:** May God send you help from the sanctuary,

**L:** May God grant you your heart's desire, and fulfill all your plans.

**P:** May we shout for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God set up our banners.

**L:** Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses,

**P:** But our pride is in the name of our God.

**OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

God of every thought and reality, the holy, prophetic sustainer of community, we gather here today as your people, children of the good news. Assure us of your presence once again, that we may trust the mystery of life and growth, as we gather in the name of our Savior, who is Jesus, the Christ. AMEN.

**READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE**

Ezekiel 17:22-24

2 Corinthians 5:6-13

Mark 4:26-34

**SERMON**

Jesus' Gardening Lesson

**Pastor MaryJane O'Connor-Ropp**

**\* HYMN**      *"I Love to Tell the Story"*      **#156 (insert)**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

You are invited to share your prayers of thanksgiving or petition. You may also send them to Pastor Wichmann at nan\_wich@bellsouth.net; indicate whether or not they should be shared.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Responsive)**

**L:** Holy God, you call us to live in mystery, to walk by faith.

**P:** Yet we long for plans with goals and schedules. It's hard to live by faith.

**L:** You call us to place our trust in you, to live according to your direction.

**P:** Yet we want life to make sense from a human point of view. It's hard to live by faith.

**L:** You call us to feel the mystery of life, to marvel at the power of your love.

**P:** Yet it's not easy to accept your promise that everything old has passed away. It's hard to live by faith.

**L:** Forgive us, holy maker of reality.

**P:** Forgive us for playing God instead of accepting our humanity.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**L.** Please greet your neighbors with the blessing: “The peace of Christ be with you.”  
**P.** And also with you.

**OFFERTORY**                      *“Prelude on St. Elizabeth”*

## No. 94

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\* HYMN                      *“It is Well With My Soul”*                      #377 (insert)

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE    *"This is the Feast of Victory"*    #638 (insert)  
vs. 3 – Antiphon

## POSTLUDE

*\*Indicates that we rise in body or in spirit.*



### **Ezekiel 17:22-24**

22 God proclaims: I myself will take one of the top branches from the tall cedar. I will pluck a tender shoot from its crown, and I myself will plant it on a very high and lofty mountain. 23 On Israel's mountainous highlands I will plant it, and it will send out branches and bear fruit. It will grow into a mighty cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it and find shelter in the shade of its boughs. 24 Then all the trees in the countryside will know that I, your God, bring down the tall tree and raise up the lowly tree, and make the green tree wither and the dry tree bloom. I, your God, have spoken, and I will do it.

(Common English Bible, adapted)

### **2 Corinthians 5:6-13**

6 So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from Christ — 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with Christ. 9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please Christ. 10 For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of God, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. 12 We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. 13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

(New Revised Standard Version, adapted)

### **Mark 4:26-34**

26 [Jesus] also said, "The kin-dom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, 27 and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. 28 The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

30 He also said, "With what can we compare the kin-dom of God, or what parable will we use for it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; 32 yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; 34 he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

(New Revised Standard Version, adapted)

(New Revised Standard

Many thanks to Pastor MaryJanne O'Connor Ropp for filling in for Pastor Nancy this week.

**United Methodist Church Staff and Worship Leaders**

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eastparishumcSalisbury>



1. How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
 2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,  
 3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,  
 4. "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - ways shall lie,  
 5. "The soul that on Je - sus still leans for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!  
 for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;  
 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;  
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
 I'll strength - en and help thee, and cause thee to stand  
 for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign  
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - ni - po - tent hand.  
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.  
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

## I Love to Tell the Story

1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a -  
 2. I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it  
 3. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re -  
 4. I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it

bove, of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his  
 seems than all the gold - en fan - cies of all our gold - en  
 peat what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly  
 best seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the

love. I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis  
 dreams. I love to tell the sto - ry, it did so much for  
 sweet. I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er  
 rest. And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new

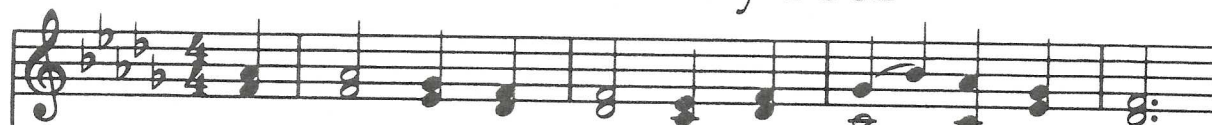
true; it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.  
 me; and that is just the rea - son I tell it now to thee.  
 heard the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.  
 song, 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*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.




## It Is Well with My Soul



1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way,  
 2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come,  
 3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought!  
 4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,



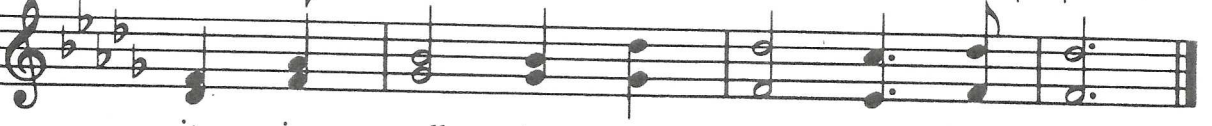
when sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll; what - ev - er my  
 let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ has re -  
 My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the  
 the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall re -



lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is  
 gard - ed my help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own  
 cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the  
 sound, and the Lord shall de - scend, e - ven so, it is



well with my soul.  
 blood for my soul. It is well with my soul,  
 Lord, O my soul! It is well with my soul,  
 well with my soul.



it is well, it is well with my soul.