

EDGEWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Cranston, RI

10:00 AM

July 16, 2023

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome! We invite you into a time of preparation for worship. We invite you to unplug, turn off your phones, unwind from the past week, and focus your hearts on God's presence within, around, and between us all.

Words of Welcome & Announcements

L: God is present. L: Everywhere, all the time.

C: All the time, everywhere. C: God is present.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Psalm 67:5-7

L: Let the peoples praise you, O God.

C: Let all the peoples praise you.

L: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

C: May God continue to bless us.

All: Let all the ends of the earth revere God, the Holy One.

Invocation

***Hymn** #425 "For the Fruit of All Creation"

Question(s) for Reflection

You are the only Bible some unbelievers will ever read.

Did my life this past week reflect the God of Love or the God of Vengeance and Harsh Rebuke?

What seeds of love have I sown recently?

Silence

Assurance of Blessing

***Sharing of the Sign of Peace**

Let us celebrate God's great grace by offering to one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Scripture

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Sermon

Sowing Seeds of Love

***Hymn** #318 "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast"

Joys and Concerns / Centering Prayer / Intercessory Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Our Creator, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, bless these gifts and the givers that all might carry forward the ministry you intend here in this church and community, and wherever there is a need on the face of the earth. Amen.

***Hymn** #586 "Come to Tend God's Garden"

The Take Home

"We cannot force someone to hear a message they are not ready to receive, but we must never underestimate the power of planting a seed."

Benediction / Sung Response "Go, My Children" (tune: #82)

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;

Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;

In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever,

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Postlude

We thank Cindy Cornell for serving as lay reader this morning.

Please keep **Cay Browne, Joe DiCiccio, Ricky Brightman, Jeff & Susan Gilborn, and Lisa Röthlingshöfer** in your prayers.

Most of us spend the first six days of each week sowing wild oats;
then we go to church on Sunday and pray for a crop failure. - Fred Allen

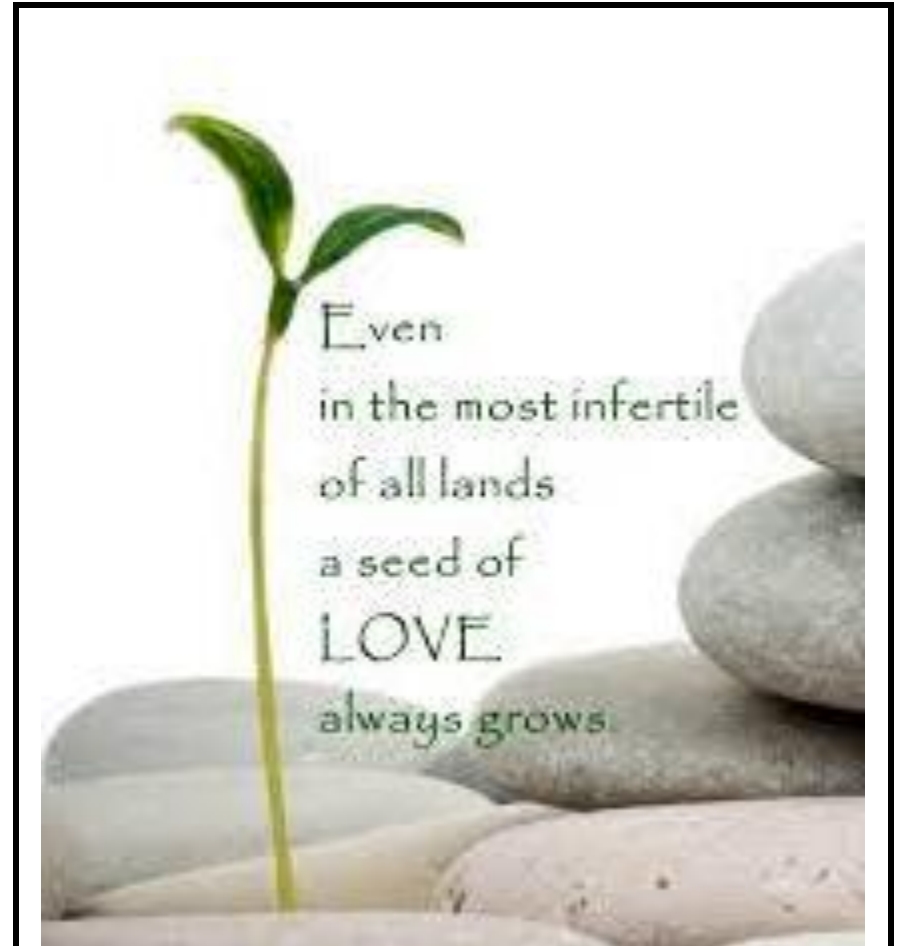
The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the
things you do for others remain as your legacy. - Kalu Ndukwe Kalu

God planted a seed of faith in our hearts, so all we had to do is water
it with prayers, fertilize it with words of God, and cultivate it with lots
of love.

EDGEWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1788 Broad Street, Cranston, Rhode Island 02905



**No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.**

Be sure to visit us on the web: <http://edgewoodchurchri.org>

Or on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Edgewood-Congregational-Church-Renewed-871032246620940/>

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