

**First Congregational Church in Bristol**  
Wherever you are on life's journey *You are welcome here!*

Insert for July 23, 2023 ~ 10:00am  
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Worship

**Prelude**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*"Love Divine, all loves excelling"*

NCH #43

**The Epistle Lesson**

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Sandra Patterson

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Reader: For the Word of God in Scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us

**ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD!**

**The Gospel Lesson**

Matthew 13:1-9

Rev. Deborah Brault

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

Reader: For the Word of God in Scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us

**ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD!**

**Sermon**

*"Seeds of God, Rooted in Faith"*

Rev. Deborah Brault

**Hymn**

*"Breathe on me, Breath of God"*

NCH #292

(At this time the Deacons will collect your prayer cards)

**Offertory**

**\*Closing Hymn**

*"Spirit of God, descend upon my heart"*

NCH #290

**Postlude**

*~ Our celebrant today is the Reverend Deborah Tate Breault ~*  
*~ Our Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~*  
*~ Our lay liturgist today is Sandra Patterson ~*  
*~ Our greeters today are Janine Beausoleil, Eleanor Ingraham & Clifford Gustafson ~*

## **Coming up on the Calendar**

August Ecumenical Meals

August 9, 2023 Facility meeting ZOOM

August 10, 2023 Ice Cream Social with Lawn Games

August 13, 2023 Deacons meeting after worship

August 17, 2023 Church Council meeting