

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 13th June 2021, Second Sunday after Trinity

Old Testament: Ezekiel 17: 22-24

Psalm: Psalm 92: 1-4, 12-15

New Testament: 2 Corinthians 5: 6-10 [11-13]14-17

Gospel: Mark 4: 26-34

Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Barbara Simmonds

Jesus is telling these two parables, as a way of teaching about the kingdom of God, and what it is like. Just as the tiny mustard seed grows into a large plant, so the kingdom of God, from its small beginnings in the Holy Land, is going to grow and spread to all people all over the world. In the parable of the growing seed, the farmer doesn't do anything after planting the seed, the seed grows by itself. Once the seed of God's kingdom is sown, only time will show how a person's faith will grow and develop.

A parable is a story that can be taken on two levels, the superficial and the more perceptive. We can choose to just hear the parables as stories, or we can choose to reflect on them, and think about what they show us about how we should live as Christians. What do we do to help the kingdom of God grow? We need to be ready to tell **our** stories. Our stories about our faith, about what Jesus means to us, and how being part of the kingdom of God makes a difference to how we live our lives.

Collect for the Second Sunday after Trinity.

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am, Sunday Worship; Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.

