

Worship on the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am July 26, 2026

Minister: The Rev. Brad Childs Music Director: Binu Kapadia

Today's Service Led by: Raymond Baker

Vocalist: Lynn Vaughan Welcoming Elder: Renita MacCallum

Children's time: Raymond

We gather to worship God

Music prelude

Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you

P: and also with you

Lighting of the Christ candle

Welcome and announcements

Preparation for worship

Call to worship:

L: Give thanks to God and call on God's holy name.

P: We will tell of God's wonderful works!

L: Let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.

P: We will sing God's praises!

L: Give glory to God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

P: We will remember God's mercy in all our words and actions.

*Opening praise: *Holy Spirit you are welcome here*

Prayers of approach and confession

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

In Jesus' Powerful name we pray. Amen.

Response: *Glory, glory, hallelujah*

Assurance of God's forgiveness

Hear these words of grace:

Scripture reminds us that there is a season for every purpose under heaven—

A time to mourn our brokenness, and a time to leap for joy.

You have brought your tears of confession to the altar.
Now, lift up your hearts and behold the vast treasure of God's love:
In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
In Jesus Christ, you are made whole.
In Jesus Christ, your story starts fresh today.
Thanks be to God!

We listen for the voice of God

Song: Jesus, we are gathered 514

Children's Message: Dayspring Kids Corner

Hey everyone! Does anyone know what a Kingdom is? Usually, when we think of kingdoms, we think of castles, knights, kings, queens, and crowns.

But have you ever heard of the **Kingdom of God**?

Before I explain what that is, I want to tell you a completely true story. It happened right here in Edmonton.

I was six years old, and I was walking home from McArthur Elementary School in Wellington Park in North Edmonton. I was walking across the big school field, all by myself, when suddenly a group of much older, bigger kids walked up to me. They were carrying a glass bottle. To be honest, I was pretty scared. I was tiny, and they were big.

But then, one of the older kids handed me the glass bottle. He pointed at a big metal pole in the field and dared me to throw the bottle and break it.

I really wanted these cool, older kids to like me. I wanted to impress them! So, I took the bottle, aimed at the pole, and threw it as hard as I could.

CRASH!

Glass shattered everywhere, all over the grass. The older kids laughed, clapped, and told me I did a great job. They even let me eat some of their potato chips as a reward. I felt so cool! Then they walked away, and I started walking home alone.

Part 2: The Realization

But as I walked, the excitement wore off. I started thinking about that shattered glass in the school field where kids play. I thought, *'What if a little kid falls today and gets cut? What if a dog steps on it?'* I started to feel really sick to my stomach.

When my dad got home from work, he asked me how my day was. I decided to be honest. I told him exactly what happened.

My dad looked at me and said something I have never, ever forgotten. He said, *'Raymond, was that a good decision?'*

I looked down at my shoes and said, *'No, Dad.'*

He looked at me kindly and said, *'Raymond, in life, you must make good decisions.'*

Part 3: The Connection to Jesus' Kingdom

Ever since that day, I have tried really hard to make good decisions. But do you want to know a secret? Sometimes, it is really hard. And sometimes, I still make bad decisions.

Whenever we make bad decisions that hurt others, hurt ourselves, or turn away from God, the Bible has a word for that. It's called **sin**.

Jesus died on the cross for our sins—for all of our bad decisions, like me breaking that bottle. When we accept that Jesus died for us, and we ask Him to be the King of our lives, we get to be part of His beautiful Kingdom.

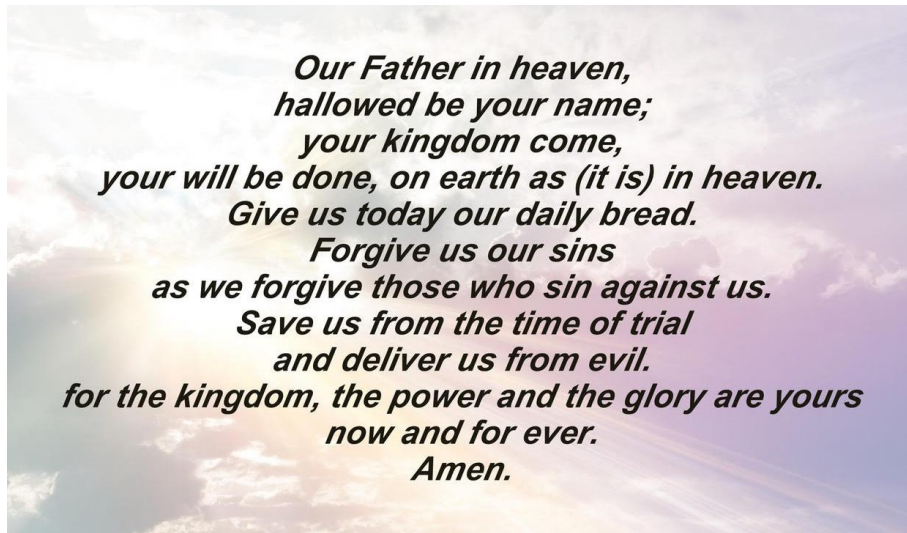
And here is the absolute best part of being in His Kingdom: **We don't have to make good decisions all on our own.**

We can pray and ask God for help. Jesus sends us a helper—the Holy Spirit—to live inside our hearts, whispering to us, guiding us, and giving us the strength to make good, kind, and even amazing decisions.

Part 4: The Prayer

"Let's pray together:

Dear God, thank You that even when we make bad decisions, You love us. Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross to wash away our sins. We want You to be the King of our lives. Please send us Your Holy Spirit this week to guide us, so we can make great decisions that bring Your love into the world. Amen.



*Song: *God is love: come heaven, adoring*

314

Scripture: Read by Leah Eisen

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 pg#14 NT(NRSV)

Response: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet*

Message: The Kingdom of Heaven

Introduction: The Invisible Kingdom

Today, we will look deeply into four short pictures of the Kingdom of God.

Before we look at the text, let me ask you a simple, intimate question: Do you believe that you are living in a kingdom right now?

When I ask you that, I'm not talking about a fairytale. I'm not talking about romanticized, medieval history. I am talking about something real. Something present. Something profoundly, disruptively exciting: The Kingdom of God.

I am talking about a living reality that invites you and me into direct, daily cooperation with the Creator of the universe.

The Kingdom of God is not a passive concept. It is not a retirement plan reserved for when your heart stops beating. It is an all-consuming, transformative reality of ultimate value—right here, right now, and carrying us straight into eternity.

Notice how Jesus speaks of the Kingdom. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus doesn't describe this Kingdom with the grand, heavy language of Roman politics or imperial power. Instead, He speaks in the rhythm of the everyday.

- Seeds.
- Yeast.
- Dirt.
- Fish.

Through these ordinary, gritty, working-class images, the question is asked: *Do you see the Kingdom? Do you recognize the world-changing power of God's Kingdom alive in your story today?*

Part I: The Unstoppable Movement

The parables we are discussing today have a different tone than the ones Jesus previously shared. These included the Parable of the Sower, where three out of four seeds don't make it—they are choked by thorns, scorched by the sun and stolen by birds. Then, in the Parable of the Weeds, an enemy actively sabotages the field. Following Christ feels hard. It feels like a losing battle, and only a tiny, battered remnant survives.

But, in today's text, Jesus pivots. He moves from the struggle to the promise. He gives us two pictures of unstoppable, holy momentum.

First, the mustard seed.

Jesus tells us the Kingdom starts small—so small it looks insignificant. A speck in the palm of your hand. But when planted in faith, it subverts every human expectation. It doesn't just grow; it explodes into life. It becomes a massive, sheltering sanctuary where the birds of the air come to rest.

Consider Hudson Taylor. When he stepped onto Chinese soil in 1854 as a young missionary, there were fewer than 500 known believers in that vast country. Today—after decades of political regimes attempting to stamp out the Gospel—there are an estimated 30 to 100 million believers in China.

The Kingdom of Heaven is infinitely stronger, more resilient, and more enduring than any earthly regime.

When Jesus spoke these parables, His entire visible movement consisted of a handful of weary fishermen and a tax collector in a forgotten corner of the Roman Empire. Yet Jesus looked at them with profound love and said: *"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."* This is found in *Luke 12:32*. It took centuries of quiet, faithfulness, but today, the shadow of that Gospel tree stretches across the globe.

Next, Jesus speaks of yeast.

A woman mixes a tiny pinch of yeast into three measures of flour—roughly sixty pounds of dough, enough to feed an entire village. And what does the yeast do? It doesn't explode and make a big production. It quietly permeates the entire batch from the inside out.

Friends, in our modern culture, it is so easy to grow discouraged about the Church. We see headline statistics about declining attendance. We hear that younger generations are drifting away. Visually and culturally, it can feel like a decline.

But, hear the promise of Scripture: God always has a remnant, and His Kingdom is always expanding.

While the cultural commentators write obituaries for the Church, the Holy Spirit is working beneath the surface.

Look right here in our own city of Edmonton.

Take Hope City Church for example. It began as a humble congregation in Mill Woods. Now their goal is to reach one percent of Edmonton—roughly 10,000 people. This past Christmas, they nearly hit that number. Every single week, six thousand people gather across their three campuses. On Sunday nights, their young adult ministry called, The Project, is packed with youth pledging their lives to Jesus Christ.

Another example is Central Baptist, which was one church on the top of Conners Hill, now it is stretching its roots across four locations and even restoring the historic MacDougall United Church downtown. Beulah Alliance started as one church in west Edmonton. Now it is continually planting and growing across our region with three diverse locations.

The yeast is working! The Kingdom of God is actively expanding in Edmonton, even when the noise around us says otherwise. It takes time for a seed to grow. It takes time for dough to rise. But God is working in the quiet places. There is a holy, quiet revolution happening right beneath our feet.

Part II: The Pearl of Great Price

Because this Kingdom is so vast and so glorious, it demands our whole hearts.

Jesus illustrates The Kingdom's supreme value through two snapshots: a hidden treasure and a priceless pearl. A man stumbles upon treasure in a field; a merchant searches his whole life for the ultimate gem. When they find what is truly valuable, their response is identical: uncontrollable joy. They gladly yield everything they have to secure it.

Picture walking through an Edmonton garage sale on a crisp Saturday morning.

You're flipping through a dusty cardboard box of discarded comic books, and suddenly your eyes land on a pristine copy of *Action Comics #1*—the first appearance of Superman. The sticker on the plastic sleeve says *five dollars*.

Your heart leaps. You know this book is worth millions.

You check your wallet—no cash. So you take off your most expensive jewelry and run back to trade it on the spot. The seller thinks you've lost your mind. They think you're crazy for trading expensive jewelry for an old comic.

But you walk down the sidewalk, laughing with uncontainable joy. Why? Because you know what it's actually worth. You just exchanged a temporary accessory for a comic book worth 5 million dollars.

Now, let us be clear: You cannot buy your salvation.

Salvation is a free, unmerited gift of God's sheer grace. Jesus paid the entire debt on the cross for our sins. While salvation costs you nothing in cash to purchase, receiving it costs you everything. It asks you to surrender your life to the loving Lordship of Jesus.

And here is the beautiful secret of the Gospel: That sacrifice is not a burden—it is a bargain!

To know Jesus Christ is the most valuable pursuit in the universe. It renders worldly status, wealth, and temporary comfort as mere shadows. As the Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 3:7-8 about accepting Christ.

"At one time all these things were important to me. But now I think those things are worth nothing because of Christ. Not only those things, but I think that all things are worth nothing compared with the greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of Christ, I have lost all those things. And now I know that all those things are worthless trash. This allows me to have Christ."

The order of the Gospel is stunning: Christ made the supreme sacrifice for our sins. Our "sacrifice" is simply handing Him our brokenness, and receiving in return His infinite, everlasting treasure.

Part III: The Wide and Messy Net

So how do we live this out together as a family in Christ in this Kingdom?

Jesus gives us a grounding reality check in the Parable of the Dragnet. He compares the Kingdom to a massive net cast into the sea, gathering fish of every single kind.

A commercial dragnet does not sort as it moves. It sweeps through the ocean floor, bringing up everything in its path—fish, seaweed, rocks, mud, and driftwood.

The deck of that boat is not a clean, sterile showroom. It is slippery. It is chaotic. It is messy. The sorting happens later, at the end of the day, when the boat reaches the shore.

Dayspring Church, hear this with open hearts: The Church of Jesus Christ is meant to be a wide, messy net—not an exclusive country club.

It is our sacred calling to cast the net wide and embrace the messiness of grace. It is God's role, at the end of the age, to do the sorting.

When we try to pre-sort the net—when we only welcome the polished, the respectable, or the people who look, dress, and think exactly like us—we stop fishing the way Jesus commanded. We are trying to be the judge instead of the fisherman.

We must remember: *Every single one of us was pulled out of those deep, murky waters by grace.*

In this present age, the healing and the hurting coexist. We minister in a complex world. But we can trust God as the ultimate judge. Our mandate is simple and beautiful: Throw the net wide. Welcome the weary. Offer the grace that saved us.

The church is not a museum for saints; it is a hospital for sinners.

Conclusion: Thy Kingdom Come

We often pray the words our Savior taught us: *"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*

When we pray that, let us mean it with all our hearts.

As we walk through the streets of Edmonton this week, let us live by the economy of this glorious Kingdom:

- Where the small and unnoticed are made mighty by grace—like the mustard seed.
- Where quiet, faithful love transforms entire neighborhoods from within—like yeast.
- Where Jesus is cherished above all earthly wealth—like the pearl of great price.
- And where the net of God's love is wide enough to hold every broken heart. We are to go make disciples of all nations teaching them all that Jesus taught us about the Kingdom of God.

Do not be discouraged by the noise of the world. Look to King Jesus.

The seed is growing. The yeast is rising. The net is full.

Let us give our lives to this Kingdom reality with unbounded joy, wholehearted surrender, and extravagant love.

Amen.

*Song: *For the fruits of all creation* 802

We respond to serve God

Our time of giving



HOW TO SUPPORT DAYSPRING'S MINISTRY & MISSION

- 1. Place a donation in the Offering Plate as you leave the Sanctuary via the centre door. Use the Yellow envelopes (add Name & Address) or your numerically identified personal Offering Envelope if you want a tax receipt.**
- 2. Use Pre-authorized remittance or e-transfer (call the Church Office on Wed or Thurs for info).**
- 3. Click the Donate button on our website (bottom right at www.DayspringChurch.ca).**
- 4. On Sundays, ask the Media Team how to use the machine in the Media Room.**

Prayer of gratitude, and for others and ourselves
Sovereign Lord, King of Kings,

We come before You today with hearts overflowing with gratitude. We praise You for the abundance of Your grace—for the blessings we behold daily, and for the hidden mercies working quietly for our good.

We thank You, Lord, for snatching us from the dominion of darkness and translating us into the glorious Kingdom of Your beloved Son. At the cross, Christ bore our sin, lifted our shame, and disarmed every power of evil. In His wounds, we find our healing; in His resurrection, we find our hope.

Establish Your rule in our hearts today. May Your Kingdom come and Your will be done in our lives, our families, and our community as it is in heaven. We give You glory for all You have accomplished, for the work You are completing in us now, and for the glorious future You have prepared.

In the triumphant name of Jesus Christ, our King, Amen.

*Song: *Amazing Grace* vrs 1,2,3,4,6 670

Sending out with God's blessing

Response: *Sing Amen*

Music postlude

TobyMac wrote these words upon the tragic death of his 21-year-old son; "My wife and I would want the world to know this ... We don't follow God because we have some sort of under-the-table deal with Him, like we'll follow you if you bless us. We follow God because we love Him."

Numbers in after a song/hymn indicate that it is from the 1997 *Book of Praise* of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Those and other songs are being used in accordance with the specifications of Dayspring's licensing with One License (3095377) and CLC (A735555).

Raymond Baker retains the copyright (© 2026) on all original material in this service. As far as Brad Childs is aware, all of the material that has not been attributed to others is his own creation or is in the public domain. Unacknowledged use of copyrighted material is unintentional and will be corrected immediately upon notification being received.