



## *Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way*

June 14, 2020

Exodus 19:2-8a

Psalm 100

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35--10:8[9-23]

### *Second Sunday after Pentecost*

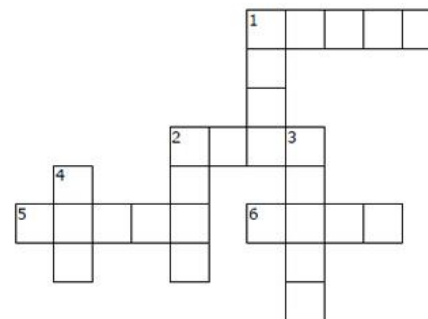
Good morning friends! How many of you have vegetable gardens at home? It takes a lot of work to maintain that garden, doesn't it? Not only did it take time to till the soil, plant the seeds, and water them in, but it's even more work to keep the garden up. It has to be tended every day to make sure that the veggies have the proper amount of water and when the veggies start to come in, they must be harvested. Can you imagine this on a large scale?! Farmers do this all the time. It takes a lot of time and love to get those fresh vegetables to your dinner table.

In our Gospel message from Matthew, Jesus says that "the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few." Jesus knows that he can't do the work all by himself because his "garden" is just too big. So, Jesus sends out his 12 friends and tells them to get to work. The work that the 12 friends are called to do is to plant the "seeds" of God's love by telling everyone they come across about the Good News of Jesus Christ. That's a lot of gardens to tend to!

Did you know that the call to go out into the world is extended to you, too? Jesus gave his followers the gift of healing. That means that YOU have that gift! We live in a world that is hurting because of Covid-19 and inequality (which means that people get treated differently because of the color of their skin, their gender, their age, or economic status...even because of who they love). But YOU can help Jesus in God's big garden world by reminding people of God's love for ALL of God's children. Even though you are little, you can make a HUGE difference.

Gracious God, thank you for your Son, Jesus who is love and light for this hurting world. Help me to answer his call of healing by spreading his message of love for all of your children. Amen.

## *Crossword Puzzle*



### ACROSS

1. To be uneasy or concerned about something; to be troubled.
2. A creature with feathers and wings, usually able to fly
5. Work, especially that which involves physical effort
6. A plant with large, usually bell-shaped flowers on long stems

### DOWN

1. To have on your body (clothing, for example)
2. A large building on a farm in which grain and animals are often kept
3. To take in and swallow liquid through the mouth
4. To put food into the mouth, chew it, and swallow it

EAT	DRINK	WEAR	BIRD
BARN	LABOR	LILY	WORRY

**Activity:** Plant something this week! Marigolds are easy to grow from seeds or you can be ambitious and plant a pizza garden. Ready the soil in a large outdoor planter pot, insert basil, oregano, pepper, and tomato plants. Water them in well and tend to them daily.

**Discussion Question:** Jesus said that the laborers are few. What might hold people back from sharing God's love and the Good News of Jesus?

### **Table Prayer for June:**

Thank you, God, for Summer  
 For longer days and a warm breeze  
 For garden veggies and fresh fruit from the trees  
 For fireflies and family time and all that you provide  
 Thank you, God, for the Holy Spirit who is always by my side.  
 Amen.

**Memory Verse for June:** Psalm 86:7 In the time of my trouble I will call upon you, for you will answer me.

