

Luke 17:5-10

It's harvest time – the beautiful autumnal flowers – the reaping of the fruit of the labour and the putting to bed time for nature.

It's a time to give thanks to God for natural foods that are the beginnings of the processed food that we have come to rely on...

The plants have produced their fruit and now they will be resting – their work done for a season..

It is amazing – in the spring – you plant an acorn – or vegetable or flower seeds – or trees begin to sprout leaves – life is quietly coming to bear and then blossom and then seedlings sprout and then like a miracle – it's all in bloom! The rhythm of the natural world is quite something.

In fact, much of Jesus's parabolic teaching centred around the creation process of everyday life - naturally told and easily understood by those who lived their life out through the creational seasons.

So today it's the mustard seed – 'If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you.

Jesus would usually leave his sermon – his teaching unexplained – it was for those with ears to hear the word.....

And actually – he IS the parable – Jesus Christ IS the word – and a mystery at that.

And the words of Jesus are like that – a mystery – we break them open – and we plant them in our heart – and they grow... there is something about the Word – the words of Jesus that is living.... Powerful... creative... sustaining... healing...

Jesus is the living word – and in him – fully divine – fully human – we have the meeting point when heaven meets earth in the divine story of God's salvation – a story that begins from the beginning – when he created in and for love – no other reason – a love brought to life – on the ground – where we are through Jesus – the Word made flesh. The Word of God meets us where we are through Jesus who plants himself in our hearts when we prepared ourselves for such an encounter – through longing, through prayer and through faith...

And so that's why we come together at church – to meditate, reflect and learn more about the Word of God – and we take that word and we express its incarnational beauty – the way it is living among us – the way Jesus is living among us – the word made flesh – through loving words and loving deeds of one to another - and we express it's incarnational beauty – through the sharing in the Eucharistic feast – the Lord's supper -

And then the sending out each week of the faithful followers of Jesus is the Harvest of the word of God – sent out in the power of the spirit – becoming the harvest of the Word for the world – living out our faith in work and in our communities from day to day – until we come together again to be nourished once more –

Through Jesus – the living word – the head of the church of which we are the body – God is saying to us - nourish yourself on my Word and take Jesus into your mind, body and soul through word and sacrament and let him grow in your heart.

When Jesus Christ is planted in your life, when God's word is planted in your heart, all kinds of miracle may occur.

Luke's Jesus might make strong demands of his disciples – but the demands aren't about jumping through hoops and all dancing all singing spirituality. The demands are simple, ordinary practices faithful service – a loving, kind, Christian presence in the world around us.

The demands are about being a slave to God – totally committed to his purposes for his world and his people. The words of Jesus say it all 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!' Today not only are we called to remember who we are – but whose we are – then – and only then – will we be part of God's faithful harvest for the world – in thought, word and deed... Amen