

Call to Worship *Holy Ground*

We are standing on holy ground, for I know that there are angels all around
Let us praise Jesus now for we are standing in God's presence on holy ground

Scavenger Hunt: Where in your world do you see God in the color brown?

- Our new cross - The stones in front of my church - Agates...
- Someone's house (my garage) – Doors
- Bulbs that turn to flowers in Spring

- The brown I see today is mulch, we are putting on the flower gardens. One half of a dump truck. Grateful to have the strength to do the work.
- Gorgeous Brown mulch that contrasts with the beautiful green leaves of shrubs and flowers
- "To my old Brown Earth" Pete Seger

- 2 Deer -The brown deer found standing in the garden on Tuesday
- A September prairie in Montana
- Bark on a tree -The mud our flowers grow in
- Rich Soil - Oak Leaves in the Fall

- Puppies and Dogs and Kitties and Cats - A nice rescue dog - A sweet puppy
- Rabbits - Brown Bears -Brown Swiss Cattle
- Hiking Boots - Noah's Ark
- My granddaughter's eyes
- Fudge – Yum! Yummy Chocolate -Chocolate chip Cookies
- Yummy beef roast & gravy
??? – Shoes, a Monkey, Coffee

The Word Genesis 2:4b-7 Common English Bible

⁴"This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. On the day the LORD God made earth and sky—⁵ before any wild plants appeared on the earth, and before any field crops grew, because the LORD God hadn't yet sent rain on the earth and there was still no human being to farm the fertile land,⁶ though a stream rose from the earth and watered all of the fertile land—⁷ the LORD God formed the human from the topsoil of the fertile land and blew life's breath into his nostrils. The human came to life."

Psalm 95:1-7 Common English Bible

"Come, let's sing out loud to the LORD! Let's raise a joyful shout to the rock of our salvation!

² Let's come before him with thanks! Let's shout songs of joy to him!

³ The LORD is a great God, the great king over all other gods.

⁴ The earth's depths are in his hands; the mountain heights belong to him; ⁵ the sea, which he made, is his along with the dry ground, which his own hands formed.

⁶ Come, let's worship and bow down! Let's kneel before the LORD, our maker!

⁷ He is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the sheep in his hands.
If only you would listen to his voice right now!"

Living the Word "Solid Ground & Ancient Trees" Dirt verses earth

1 –"On the day the LORD God made earth and sky" The beginning of the land

⁷ the LORD God formed the human from the topsoil of the fertile land and blew life's breath into

his nostrils. The human came to life."

2-Abram and the land Genesis 17:7-8

⁷ "I will set up my covenant with you and your descendants after you in every generation as an enduring covenant. I will be your God and your descendants' God after you. ⁸ I will give you and your descendants the land in which you are immigrants, the whole land of Canaan, as an enduring possession. And I will be their God."

3- Moses and the land – the Promise Land Exodus 3:7-8a

⁷ "Then the LORD said, "I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. ⁸ I've come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land that's full of milk and honey..."

4- Noah and the wood Genesis 6:13a, 14-16,22

¹³ "God said to Noah... ¹⁴ so make a wooden ark. Make the ark with nesting places and cover it inside and out with tar. ¹⁵ This is how you should make it: four hundred fifty feet long, seventy-five feet wide, and forty-five feet high. ¹⁶ Make a roof for the ark and complete it one foot from the top. Put a door in its side. In the hold below, make the second and third decks. ²² Noah did everything exactly as God commanded him."

5- The Story of The Three Trees

Once upon a mountain top, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up. The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: " I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!" The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on it's way to the ocean. " I want to be traveling mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I'll be the strongest ship in the world! The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. I don't want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me they'll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world.

Years, passed. The rain came, the sun shone and the little trees grew tall. One day three wood cutters climbed the mountain. The first wood cutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the first tree fell. "Now I shall make a beautiful chest, I shall hold wonderful treasure!" the first tree said. The second wood cutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It's perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the second tree fell. "Now I shall sail mighty waters!" thought the second tree. " I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings!" The third tree felt her heart sink when the last wood cutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven. But the wood cutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me." He muttered. With a swoop of his shining ax, the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the wood cutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feed box for animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold, or treasure. She was coated with saw dust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals. The second tree smiled when the wood cutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty sailing ship was made that day. Instead the once strong tree was hammered and awed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail to an ocean, or even a river, instead she was taken to a little lake. The third tree was confused when the wood cutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard. "What happened?" The once tall tree wondered. " All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountain top and point to God..."

Many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feed box. "I wish I could make a cradle for him." Her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and sturdy wood. " This manger is beautiful." She said. And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

One evening a tired traveler and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveler fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake. Soon a thundering and a thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through the wind and the rain. The tired man awoke. He stood up, stretched out his hand, and said, "Peace." The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. And suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the king of heaven and earth.

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten wood pile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hand to her. She felt ugly and harsh and cruel. But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything. It had made the third tree strong. And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God. That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.

The next time you feel down because you didn't get what you wanted, sit tight and be happy because God is thinking of something better to give you.

Anticipating Tomorrow - Yellow