

"Green, as in Growth "

Pastor Cathy L Hamblin

Genesis 1:11-12;29-30; Mark 6:39; Deuteronomy 32:2; Psalm 52:8

Seventh Sunday of Summer July 14, 2019

Hayward United Methodist Church

Call to Worship Jeremiah 17:8

They will be like trees planted by the streams, whose roots reach down to the water.

They won't fear drought when it comes; their leaves will remain green. They won't be stressed in the time of drought or fail to bear fruit.

And so it shall be also for us.

Prayer of Invocation

God, you break into our world in the most surprising manner. You intrude in the lives of your people, challenging and changing the once familiar. We try to not see you. And still, you come to us claiming us as your own and continue your transforming work in our midst even as we worship you this very day. Help us to trust your loving ways, and prepare us for the risky business of living in the world for you. Amen.

The Scavenger Hunt: Where do you see God in the color Green?"

Green 'go' traffic light; my white water canoe; The Packers. The various shades of green driving through the Spring countryside; the first green leaves of Spring; trees. Most trees, bushes and plants; trees and grass; 2 more grass; a baseball infield; Clover; Irish shamrocks.

Rows of crops in the farmer's field; green hay fields; fresh cut hay. The song - "Once There Were Green Fields" (Brothers 4). Weeds that irritate us but some of which are beautiful in their own way; vegetable gardens; lily pads; green dragonflies; a little green snake; frogs; The book - "The Very Hungry Caterpillar." Limes, watermelon, cucumbers, spinach, peas, grapes, green beans, pickles. Money, Emeralds Mold on bread – Penicillin

The Word

Genesis 1:11-12, 29-30 Common English Bible

God said, "Let the earth grow plant life: plants yielding seeds and fruit trees bearing fruit with seeds inside it, each according to its kind throughout the earth." And that's what happened. The earth produced plant life: plants yielding seeds, each according to its kind, and trees bearing fruit with seeds inside it, each according to its kind. God saw how good it was.

Then God said, "I now give to you all the plants on the earth that yield seeds and all the trees whose fruit produces its seeds within it. These will be your food. To all wildlife, to all the birds of the sky, and to everything crawling on the ground—to everything that breathes—I give all the green grasses for food." And that's what happened.

Living the Word

'Green, as in Growth' Pastor Cathy L. Hamblin

Quiz: How many green vegetables or fruits can you name in 20 seconds? (Answer below)

Mark 6:39 *"He directed the disciples to seat all the people in groups as though they were having a banquet on the green grass."*

It was going to be a Holy Biblical Picnic: 5000 of your neighbors and friends gathering to hear the top speaker of the time. A man named Jesus.

This is my Father's World 'In the rustling Grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me everywhere.'

Deuteronomy 32:2 *"My teaching will fall like raindrops; my speech will settle like dew—like gentle rains on grass, like spring showers on all that is green—"*

Shades of Green in the forest...

Ferns, coming from the fiddleheads – all curled up - and unfurling to become a fan.

Flower stems needed to support all flowers, and they are green!

"Plants" – our need for plants: beyond fruits & vegetables - Plants provide humans with oxygen through photosynthesis, food, clothing and shelter.

Spruce trees point to heaven, Christmas Trees - 'Evergreens' - It symbolizes the Garden of Eden and the Tree of Life.

The common-ness of green, joy in Spring, then fairly common. Green-ness of everything this week..."This is as green as its going to get."

"The grass needs cutting again..."

Psalm 52:8 *"But I am like a green olive tree in God's house; I trust in God's faithful love forever and always."*

Olive tree -a symbol for reward, victory, strength, purification, fruitfulness and peace. As per Christian and Jewish tradition, the olive tree was symbolic of peace. Old fables say that the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified was made from an olive branch.

In the church: Ordinary Time or common time, refers to periods of the Christian liturgical calendar, the liturgical color normally assigned to Ordinary Time is green. Time of growth for Christians – this summer/as you look for God.

Quote: Canadian Author, T. Harv Ecker, "Isn't it interesting how a plant seems like it's either growing or dying? Just like a plant, you're either growing or dying as well."

All growth comes with a need for water & sunshine – growth given by humans to humans is what mentoring and encouragement can do for another's soul and you become blessed in the sharing.

Jeremiah 17:8 *"They will be like trees planted by the streams, whose roots reach down to the water. They won't fear drought when it comes; their leaves will remain green. They won't be stressed in the time of drought or fail to bear fruit. And so it shall be also for us."*

Green as in growth: Thing Greater" "Lord, open us to all that you would have us be for you and for others. Breakthrough into our lives and our church with new possibilities. Amen:" – Anytime is a good time for growth...

(Green Vegetables & fruits: Asparagus, Cabbage, Artichoke, Watercress, Cucumber, Lettuce, Broccoli, Green Beans, Peas, Spinach, Brussels Sprouts, Celery, Rhubarb, Zucchini, Peppers, Green Onions, Kohlrabi, Dandelion, Avocado, Grapes, Limes, Apples, Kiwi)