

WEBSTER GROVES
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
An Open & Affirming Congregation
 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

July 12, 2026

Welcome/Brief Announcements	Jeff Moore
Prelude	Lisa Cripe
Opening Prayer	Max Ott
*Opening Hymn	<i>Bring Many Names</i> CH 10
Children's Moment	John Gerdes
Scripture Reading	Matthew 13:1-23 Max Ott
Table Talk	"Good Soil" Jeff Moore
Invitation to Discipleship	Jeff Moore
*Hymn of Invitation	<i>God of the Fertile Fields</i> CH 695
Invitation to the Lord's Table	Jeff Moore
Communion Hymn	<i>Seed, Scattered and Sown</i> CH 395

The Lord's Supper/Elder's Prayer	Max Ott
Communion Meditation	<i>Seed, Scattered and Sown</i>
Prayer of Thanksgiving	
Offering Our Gifts & Commitments	Jeff Moore
Prayer over the Offering	
*Doxology	
Prayers of the Community	Jeff Moore
<i>This morning, we are praying with and for the people and churches of France, and for those countries under the siege of threats, war, and natural disasters</i>	
The Prayer that Jesus Taught Us <i>Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.</i>	
*Closing Hymn	<i>All Good Gifts</i> CP 100
*Benediction	Jeff Moore
Postlude	<i>All Good Gifts</i> Lisa Cripe

*= Please stand if you are comfortably able. CH—Chalice Hymnal CP=Chalice Praise Hymnal AAH=African-Amer. Hymnal	
Greeter(s): Pat Roseman Musicians: Lisa Cripe, Wind of the Spirit, WGCC Choir (Robin Woodrome, director), WGCC Celebration Ringers Prayer Composer: Devoree Crist Media/Streaming: John Pahl, Zander Gerdes	

OPENING PRAYER, 7-12-26

Based upon Matthew 13:1-23

O Good Gardener, your holy word is like seed sown in the soil of our soul. Our desire is to be rich soil where the seed takes good root and produces plentifully. Today as we worship and hear your word and the message inspired by it, let us receive it fully into our hearts and let it grow and transform us. We offer ourselves to you as fertile ground to reap the harvest for the betterment of your created world. Give us the energy, the fortitude and the will to be your agents for spreading and sharing the good news that you bless the world with an everlasting love, flowing in all directions at all times, through Jesus Christ, in whose holy name we pray, Amen

Matthew 13:1-23

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Parable of the Sower

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!”

The Purpose of the Parables

¹⁰ Then the disciples came and asked him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” ¹¹ He answered, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ¹³ The reason I speak to them in parables is that ‘seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.’ ¹⁴ With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

‘You will indeed listen but never understand,
and you will indeed look but never perceive.

¹⁵For this people’s heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes,
so that they might not look with their eyes,
and hear with their ears
and understand with their heart and turn—
and I would heal them.’

¹⁶“But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

The Parable of the Sower Explained

¹⁸“Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”