





Jesus said: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches.” (Matthew 13:31-32)

Since Jesus taught this parable, mustard seeds have been used as a staple illustration in churches. The miniscule mustard seed, which is around 1 to 2 millimetres in diameter, grows into a tree typically six to seven metres in height. The seed illustrates a timeless truth that Christian growth and transformation begins with the smallest seed of faith and when nurtured grows into the largest plant in the garden. Amazingly it doesn't stop there. The birds come and they make nests in the branches, that is, they call the tree home. The birds do not just settle in the tree, they become a part of its ecosystem, an essential component in spreading its many seeds. Jesus encourages us that even if we have the smallest faith God will transform that into something unexpected and astounding. It is no wonder that this message has continued to encourage Christians across the centuries.

Last Sunday Alan continued his series on the gospel of Luke, in particular, that underscoring the gospel is a belief that the good news of Jesus' Kingdom is for anyone.¹ Like a sower spreading seeds (Matt 13:18-23), Jesus has spread the gospel message throughout the land, he has not excluded anyone. Sadly, the soil is not always fertile and the seeds do not always last long. On poor ground the seeds are snatched away; the roots cannot go deep; the saplings are strangled by the thorns and weeds. The seed is not guaranteed to grow, it requires cultivation, it requires a gardener.

Is there anybody in your life that you are feeling called to cultivate? Are they being strangled by hopelessness and fear? Is their foundation too shallow for roots to dig deep? It is during times of crisis that our lives are stripped bare and we recognise how precarious life can be. Like a gale blowing across a high summit, we are stripped clean of everything other than the things which have the deepest roots and the rigor to face adversity. As Christ's church, led by the Spirit, we are being called to cultivate the land in preparation for the Kingdom of Heaven. During times of adversity let us not forget what is important.

I saw another angel flying through the sky, carrying the eternal Good News to proclaim to the people who belong to this world—to every nation, tribe, language, and people. ⁷ “Fear God,” he shouted. “Give glory to him. For the time has come when he will sit as judge. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and all the springs of water.” (Revelation 14:6-7)

¹ I prefer to hold the distinction that the good news of the gospel is for “anyone” rather than “everyone.” That is, anyone who believes that Jesus Christ is their Saviour and Lord.



What's On

October

Weekly: Sundays 11am – Sunday Worship (Church/Online)

Join us at the church or on YouTube/Facebook as we worship together. Doors open at 10.45am and close at 12:00pm.

1st and 3rd Sundays 2pm – Communion/Natter (Zoom/Online)

On the first Sunday of each month we will gather together on Zoom and YouTube to celebrate communion together. On the 3rd Sunday of each month we will enjoy a time of fellowship together.

Weekly: Wednesdays 7.30pm – Prayer and Bible Study (Hall)

Discuss the most recent Sunday message, pray and worship together.

The latest study questions can be viewed at:

<https://dunfermlinewest.org/links/biblestudy>

Monday 5th 8pm – Women's Bible Study (Zoom)

Gather together on Zoom as we continue the Prayer Course:

<https://prayercourse.org/>. For further information contact rachel_luxton@yahoo.co.uk.

Wednesday 7th 11am – Live reflections in the Psalms with Prayer (Online)

Joins us on YouTube/Facebook as a guest speaker reflects on Psalms 51 to 54.

Sunday 18th 11am – Harvest Sunday (Church/Online)

Join us at the church or on YouTube/Facebook as we celebrate Harvest together. Doors open at 10.45am and close at 12:00am. Note: further details will be provided of our harvest activities including collecting for Foodbank and a Harvest Family Fun Pack.

Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th – BUS Canopy (Church/Online)

Canopy is a new online gathering for all Scottish Baptist Churches.

Over the weekend we will pray together, listen to God's word, hear inspirational speakers, tell stories of what God is doing in his church and expect him to speak into our lives and communities.

(<https://scottishbaptist.com/events/canopy/>)

Please read the latest guidance on meeting physically with us:

<https://dunfermlinewest.org/assets/files/reopening-guidance.pdf>

Sharing In and Out Together

World Mission: Our BMS link missionary – Laura-Lee, Peru.

Laura says they are relieved that the Nauta and Iquitos region where she works, have resisted the feared 'second wave' of COVID-19 and that the temporally-focussed Sunday national lockdowns have been lifted in most of the country, though schools remain closed and public gatherings continue to be officially banned. As a result, they still don't anticipate being able to run any pastors' training events at the Training Centre until next year and have been discussing using local radio as an alternative. Last week they ran the first ever pilot Training Week by Radio and there was a good response.

Healthwise, Laura decided to get tested for the virus after the Site Administrator tested positive. She was told she didn't have the virus NOW, but had already had it! She has not been too great though and asks for prayers as she been having tests and has a second visit to the gastroenterologist this week. Another prayer request is for the Centre at Nauta as the entire 70m section of perimeter wall needs replacing after an attack of extreme weather at the end of September. Mercifully, the ferocity of the storm was such that everyone was indoors and no-one was hurt by the falling bricks, concrete and power line.

As she states in a typically 'Laura-Lee like understatement' – now that some restrictions have been lifted 'all we're mainly back to worrying

about are the usual endemic risks of dengue, gut parasites and sudden extreme weather events'!

Generosity

We would like to thank all of you for your generosity in continuing to give to the church during this time. We appreciate that these are uncertain times and are grateful that many of us are still able to contribute to the mission of the Church. You can find further information on how to give to the church via bacs (preferred), cheque or cash at: <https://dunfermlinewest.org/giving/>

Sunday's Message

If you haven't had a chance to watch the message from Sunday or would like to watch it again you can watch it at:

<https://youtu.be/IOAZ81cRnhk>

Buddy Groups

Keep up to date with prayers for our community at <https://dunfermlinewest.org/prayers>

Connecting with us

You can connect into each of our services via <https://dunfermlinewest.org/online> and also via telephone using our latest stay connected details at:

<https://dunfermlinewest.org/assets/files/dwbc-stay-connected.v6.pdf>



Subscribe, Like and Invite.

Please do regularly keep up to date with the churches news on Facebook and YouTube and interact with its content:

- YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7BuBS_TUKDMvu5Wcpg9PAg/
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dunfermlinewest>

Worship Group

As we are creating new songs we are adding them to a YouTube playlist which you can listen to whenever you like at:

<https://dunfermlinewest.org/worship/playlist>