

St Mark's at home

God is with us wherever we are...

The potential of small things...

The familiarity of the mustard seed parable brings the danger of not appreciating the amazing, unexpected and disproportionate growth that is being suggested. The transformation of a small seed into a large shrub is miraculous – and it is a snapshot of growth in God's kingdom. The parables earlier in the chapter also had images of seed and ground; but here it is about God providing a home for his creation. How do we find a home in God? What other images of home or sanctuary might complement the mustard seed for us? How might the home in God we create for ourselves and others grow from small things?

FAITH THE SIZE OF A MUSTARD SEED BRINGS US TO YOU

Faith the size of a mustard seed brings us to you, sown through the witness of saints and apostles and people of faith met along the way.

Lord, make yourself known to us through your presence.

Hope the size of a mustard seed brings us to you, made known through the voices of the prophets and those who refuse to accept despair.

Lord, make yourself known to us through Scripture.

Love the size of a mustard seed brings us to you, shown through those who cared for and nurtured us and constantly prayed for us.

Make yourself known to us, Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.



1

ROMANS 9. 1-5

2

PSALM 17

3

MATT 13. 31-33

The Mustard Seed- a blessing

In times when you feel that your actions are small and inconsequential,
may you remember the mustard seed:
the tiniest of things that takes root and grows and one day
becomes a great tree
sheltering all the birds of the air. Amen.

Neil Paynter, Iona Community



Next week- hidden treasure and a valuable pearl...

The church building remains **open for private prayer on a Tuesday between 10am and 1pm** over the summer weeks.

We will be having a **short simple said communion service on Sunday evenings** at 6.30pm during August. Numbers will be limited due to current restrictions. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to attend and see our website for further details of the guidelines that will be in place.

You can find a further material based on the theme of this week's readings on the St Mark's at Home page of the website and updated information on our **Facebook** page too.

Keep in touch!

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A PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

For the signs of your kingdom,
in gestures as small as tiny mustard seeds,
in simple kindnesses that can mean so much:
We give you thanks.

For the way your kingdom takes hold
and grows like yeast in a batch of dough,
with the determination and persistence that good
will prevail:
We give you thanks.

For the way we see your kingdom in surprising
places,
such as the discovery of treasure in a field,
and unlikely people doing unexpected things:
We give you thanks.

For the price people pay for your kingdom,
like a pearl, more costly than all the other jewels
in the world,
because it asks for commitment and sacrifice:
We give you thanks.

For the way your kingdom spreads
like a net catching enough fish to feed the world,
irresistible, powerful, with a love that overcomes
all:
We give you thanks. Amen.

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An illustration of a village with colorful houses (yellow, orange, blue, red), green trees, and a winding road. The scene is set in a hilly landscape.The logo for St Mark's Church, featuring a stylized blue crown or flame-like shape above the text "ST MARK'S CHURCH" and "KEMPSHOTT & LONGACRE".