**A Sunday service for families – 6th Sunday after Trinity**

**This is Rural Mission Sunday – the day when we celebrate the mission of small rural churches and pray for their success and welbeing**

**Your activity/craft today: You could do any or all of these:**

**Make an animal out of a piece fo fruit or a vegetable, plus scraps of paper/fabric or other craft items. Here are some ideas …** [**https://www.icreativeideas.com/creative-animals-made-of-fruits-and-vegetables/**](https://www.icreativeideas.com/creative-animals-made-of-fruits-and-vegetables/)

**Go out into your garden and see how many different fruits or vegetables you can see growing. What about foods that the birds, animals and insects eat?**

**Draw a picture of your favourite food, or your favourite flower or animal.**

**If you have a candle you could light it now**

**Let’s say together:**

Creator God, there is so much that is strange in our lives at present.

Help us to pay attention to your creation, so that we may see you in the common and everyday.

Shepherd Jesus, as we walk through this rapidly changing world, help us to know you walk with us.

If our path runs through the valley of the shadow may we see your light and know your comfort as you lead us.

Comforting Spirit, as we go about our ordinary lives, surprise us with glimpses of holy ground.

Blessed Trinity, Creator, Shepherd, Spirit, surround us with your love, now and always.

Amen

**Song: For the Beauty of the earth** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOVFvctxv6c**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOVFvctxv6c)

**Here is this week’s bible story**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifKH0-y7O\_I**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifKH0-y7O_I)

**And here is a reflection on the bible story we have just watched.**

**In Jesus’ day people were much more connected to the land than we**

**are. For them, a bad harvest could mean disaster. By drawing on the**

**ordinary scenes of daily life to talk of God, Jesus is taking common**

**ground and making it holy ground.**

**The parable of the mustard seed is a reminder that the work of**

**bringing in the Kingdom of Heaven happens at God’s initiative. No**

**famer would plant just one seed, but this is a reminder that God**

**works in small and often hidden ways. We see this picture again in**

**the parable of the woman using yeast to bake bread; something so**

**small transforms flour into a light loaf.**

**Both activities require patience: we have to wait for a seed to grow**

**and for yeast to raise the dough. We cannot control either process;**

**we must wait on God. Many of us have felt disconcerted by just how**

**out of control life has felt recently. We have had to learn to depend**

**on God, to find and stay on holy ground in new ways and unlikely**

**places.**

**• What do you need to be patient about?**

**• What do you do when you feel life is out of control?**

**Let us pray**

**Lord Jesus, help us to be part of the kingdom of God, spreading the good news and supporting our rural community Amen.**

***Let us say together***

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed is your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

**Song:**

**thank you Lord for this new day**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njsdfxK9FcQ**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njsdfxK9FcQ)

**Let’s say The Grace together, thinking about our friends at church, and about all who love us and look after us.**

**The grace of our lord Jesus Christ**

**and the love of God**

**And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit**

**Be with us all evermore**

**Amen**

***Blow out your candle***