

**Sunday, August 14, 2022 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church  
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Bible Study – Isaiah 5:1-7**

**“Yielding Wild Grapes”**

Open with a word of prayer

**Gathering Time** (5-10 minutes)

In groups of two or three, respond to the following, “When was a time that you had high expectations only to be let down?”

**Isaiah 5:1-7. Context.** This week’s reading from Isaiah of Jerusalem is one of a collection of oracles that has been placed at the beginning of the book of Isaiah announcing general themes found throughout the words of the prophet. Here the passage is often given the title, “the song of the vineyard,” and the theme is justice and the punishment for injustice. The prophet announces a love-song for his “beloved,” that is, his friend the Lord, in the opening sentence, but what follows is a parable of the vineyard. The owner has lavished all kinds of care on the vineyard, but the vineyard yields a bad harvest. The people of Jerusalem are called upon to give judgment together with the owner; but the conclusion of the parable reveals that the judgment is in fact upon them. The love song doesn’t end quite the way one might expect.

**Read Isaiah 5:1-7**

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn’t make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

**Read Isaiah 5:1-7 again**

**Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.**

- Why do you think the prophet gives this judgment in the form of a love-song?
- Who does the prophet identify as the vineyard of the Lord (v. 7)?
- What did God do for the vineyard and what did he expect from it (v. 2)? What does the prophet say God found instead of grapes (v. 2)? Why is that the case?

- Read verse 7 in as many translations as are available to your group. The Hebrew wordplay is difficult to translate, as the word “justice” and “bloodshed” are similar sounding words, as are “righteousness” and “cry of distress.”
- The sermon notes for this week played on the idea of church buildings being likened to vineyards in the care and maintenance that given to them. Additionally, the likeness is that church buildings should yield a certain “fruitfulness” when it comes to the Christian life. How is this comparison helpful?
- **(R)** What does this passage tell us about God? What does this passage tell us about the community of believers?

**Closing Reflection Question**

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

**Prayer** (10 minutes). Share prayer requests and respond appropriately.

**Sending Forth** (2 minutes). After all, have shared, end by praying the following or a similar prayer:

God of righteousness, the Holy Spirit continues to seek and empower believers that they might live fruitful lives of righteousness. Help us to be fertile ground where the Word of God will take deep root within our lives that others might experience a glimpse of your glory through us. May your church be outposts of healing and grace for those in need.  
**Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord’s Prayer....

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 trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
 Lead us not into temptation  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom, the power  
 and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.