**Blackburn’s Chapel Home Worship**

**Week of 5/18/2020**

**Gathering prayer –** Heavenly Father, we pray today that as we hear your words of guidance, comfort, and truth they may take root in soil prepared by your grace. Take away all things that choke out the fruit of the Spirit in our hearts and lives. Prepare us in this life for the coming of your eternal kingdom. We pray this in the name of the Risen One, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

**Scripture – Isaiah 12:1-6**

**Reflection Questions**

1. Isaiah chs. 6-12 tells us of the ways God looks to redefine the future of His people. The people had wandered from God’s hope and hardened their hearts, yet God’s grace continues to meet them in their wandering. In what ways does this passage offer a window into the coming New Covenant ushered in by Christ?
2. Isaiah speaks of the people drawing water “from the wells of salvation” (v.3). How does this verse reflection Jesus’ ministry of salvation? Where are you drawing from the wells of salvation? Where are you finding the living water offered by Christ? (See John 4:4-14).

**Scripture – Matthew 13:1-9**

**Reflection**

1. The parable of the sower shows us Jesus casting the word of God wide, knowing that not all the seeds will “take.” There are four places the seeds land. Reflect on each landing place. Which one (or ones) do you identify with the most?
2. Jesus is the sower (see Matt. 13:37), but we also have a place in the sowing. In what ways is God calling you to sow seeds of God’s kingdom today? How could this passage help you keep with your sowing even if the fruit isn’t obvious?

**Worship in Song**

“Oh, How I Need You” – All Sons and Daughters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-ZpcJzGBpE>

**Closing prayer – Thomas a Kempis**

I ask you, my most gracious God, preserve me from the cares of this life, lest I should be too much entangled in them; and from the many necessities of the body, lest I should be ensnared by pleasure; and from whatsoever is an obstacle to the soul, lest, broken with troubles, I should be overthrown. Amen.