

“A Kingdom of Gold”  
The Second Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 6  
The Rev. Patricia Gillespie - June 14, 2009

*1 Samuel 15:34-16:13*

*Psalm 20*

*2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17*

*Mark 4:26-34*

I am a farmer with the Midas touch.

In the late spring I am the proud owner of 55 acres of spectacular gold.  
Where just a month before I slogged through acres of brown slushy mud.

**“ . . .there is a new creation:  
everything old has passed away;  
see, everything has become new!”**

The kingdom of heaven is like dandelions.

***It is as if someone would sleep and rise night and day,  
and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.  
The earth produces of itself, ...  
The seed ... is just fluff, among the smallest of all the seeds on earth;  
yet it covers the earth and turns everything golden.***

The dandelion, like biblical mustard, is a weed that takes over from everything else.  
Once again, Jesus, like his Father,  
has chosen the undesirable to symbolize or even accomplish God’s work.

To the amazement of Samuel and everyone else,  
God turns from powerful Saul,  
to a family of country boys,  
and chooses not one of the tall, handsome, strong young men,  
but the insignificant little kid minding the sheep.

“Here, Lord, are the roses and orchids,” we say, offering generously our very best.  
While God’s off on the south forty dancing with the dandelions.

The kingdom is like that.  
Unexpected and full of joy, common and right here under our noses.

But I want to enlighten God about dandelions.  
To say “You know, Lord, next week they’ll all be fluff and ugly stalks.”

Jesus replies, "For sure. Where do you think we get next year's gold?"  
He grins and lifts a cup of sweet dandelion wine, toasting his companions,  
a couple of elderly hospice patients with wispy dandelion fluff hair.

The kingdom is like that.  
It is about transforming our lives here and now,  
about giving new life in the last place we'd expect:  
in a muddy hayfield, a tiny mustard seed, or a dirty sheepfold,  
at a hospice bedside or a smelly fisherman's boat.

The kingdom is among us wherever we see the old become new.  
Those times of transition – birth, death, marriage, graduation –  
times when we have an opportunity to become a new person,  
the springtimes in our lives when, like David,  
the spirit of the Lord may come mightily upon us.

In those moments of struggle to change and to grow the kingdom is at hand.  
Do you remember being thirteen?  
The kingdom of heaven is like middle school.  
It can be that powerful and that painful a transformation.

And the kingdom of heaven is right here among us  
full of Christ's power to change our lives to gold.

Where is God's kingdom at work in your life?