Greetings to brothers and sisters in Christ of the loving and faithful community of Dixon First!

How fast the change of season is!! Even before we enjoy enough the beautiful rebirth of the budding and blooming flowers and trees of the spring through this Easter season, the weather is sneaking into the warmer and brighter air of the summer. I am so sad to see that the spring is gone, but I am also thrilled to meet the summer with a hopeful anticipation to return to the normal way of life with less concern of meeting in person with our loved people.

One more thing that makes me feel thrilled to meet this summer is my gardening experience that I started a couple of weeks ago for the first time in my life. With the help of Pastor Jay, I made a small square shaped garden bed with a metal frame that I bought from Amazon, set it on the previous garden bed site and filled it up with gardening soils that I bought from a garden center. And with a thrilled expectation to see plants sprouting and growing in this small garden bed, I started sowing and planting some vegetables, such as peppers, lettuce, and pumpkins two weeks ago, some of them in seeds and others in nursery plants, watering them using a small watering can first but later an extended hose connected to the outside faucet, and waiting for the sprouts coming out from the seeds and the nursery plants’ growing up with more leaves and taller height.

Then, it is just one week after I was sowing some seeds of vegetables that I experienced an indescribable joy to see many small sprouts coming out of seeds sowed in the garden along a small furrow that I made for sowing the seeds! In this big joy of my own given to me through this short gardening experience, I could imagine how joyful God was when God completed all creation as is described in Genesis 1:31 (NRSV), “God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.” I was also amazed with the power of God’s creation that I could witness through this short process of gardening, which reminds me of what the Apostle Paul says in Galatians 6:7-8, as follows.

**7**Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. **8**If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit.(Galatians 6:7-8, NRSV)

As the Apostle Paul admonishes us in these verses from Galatians, even in my short experience of gardening, I could realize that God only allows me to reap what I sow, not whatever I do not sow. In my reflection on the days and months that we have been living in the pandemic situation of COVID-19, this short experience of gardening brings me a chance to think about what I was sowing in my life during the time, whether I sowed to my own flesh, or to the Spirit.

For most of us in the fear and instability that each of us would have been struggling with in our own personal situation, we might have been sowing more to our own flesh than to the Spirit. But, Jesus’ love for us in his laying down his life for the salvation of our souls from the sins, which we have been reflecting on through the season of Easter, allows us to get another chance to sow to the Spirit and thereby reap eternal life from the Spirit through the gardening of our life.

Then, what do you like to sow in your garden of life as the way to sow to the Spirit?

With the well-known verse of the Apostle Paul’s exhortation regarding the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NRSV), “And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love,” I pray that we may be able to sow the seeds of love, faith, and hope in our gardening of life as Christians; the seed of love as the greatest gift of the Spirit, the seed of faith based on our love of God and love of neighbor, and the seed of hope given to us through Jesus Christ in his life, death, and resurrection for the salvation of us from the sins.

Blessings,

Pastor Young Sun