

Daily Morning Message
St Paul United Church of Christ
5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247
Allen M Fluent, Pastor
Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Lectionary Readings *Psalm 73:1-20*
 Proverbs 14:1-9
 Matthew 17:14-21

Today's Scripture Verse: *Truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. (Matthew 17:21)*

What it means: The image of the tiny mustard seed is one that Jesus uses more than once when he wants to emphasize the explosive influence of God's Kingdom. Here, it is the faith that can "move mountains" that is being celebrated. The setting is a failure by some of his followers to bring healing to an epileptic man, and we are reminded that Jesus was known as a healer. We don't always understand what that means, because we live in a world of scientific healing. From the standpoint of physical healing, most of us would say that science works better. But spiritual healing has less to do with curing physical problems than with creating a feeling of wholeness that can benefit the body as well as the soul. Jesus' primary point, however, is that faith has an extraordinary power to transform our lives.

Reflection: God grant us faith to move the mountainous challenges that confront us and our world. May our faith lead to courageous actions to seek change in the places where sorrow and injustice seem to reign in power.

