

The Kingdom of Heaven and the Mustard Seed

Now we are in the season of celebrating the light coming into the world with the rising of Christ from the dead. As we look around us we can see other signs of resurrection. If you go out for a walk you can see new buds on bare branches and daffodils and other spring flowers poking up from bare ground, maybe even blooming. I wonder how you feel when you see these signs of new growth?

When Jesus was still alive and teaching and healing in Israel he used these signs to talk about the Kingdom of God. Today we hear one such story or parable.



With what can we compare the Kingdom of God or what parable will we use for it?

It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth;



yet when it is sown



it grows up



and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches



so that all the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.



What did you hear? How big was the mustard seed? What happened when it was planted? Can we make it grow? Can we help it to grow? What does it need to grow? What happened after it grew? I wonder how the birds felt when they could make nests in its shade? I wonder what Jesus was trying to tell us about the kingdom of God? I wonder if something small can grow into something big there? I wonder how we might help it to grow? Is there anything you would like to say to Jesus about this story?

Have you seen and worked with this material before? Do you notice anything new now? Would you like to draw a picture? Would you like to take a walk and notice all the seeds growing? How might we say thank you to God for all this new growth?