

Year A, Week 20 (April 13, 2008)

Matthew 13:31-33

Kingdom of heaven: Mustard Seed

Hymn suggestion: *He's Got the Whole World In His Hands*

Items Needed:

- The following items should be in the supply boxes, but since they are not the “usual” wooden figures, etc., you might want to check beforehand.
- Brown felt tree
- Tan felt birds nests
- Blue felt birds

(Directions: Set felt materials to one side of you. Fold or roll up brown mustard tree.)

While Jesus was on Earth, he talked about the kingdom of God. When the crowds heard him, they probably thought about a king like King David, who was mighty in battle. But Jesus talked about a different kind of kingdom, the kingdom of heaven.

He said the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. *(Hold out your hand with an imaginary mustard seed in it.)*

The mustard seed is a tiny seed, the smallest of all the seeds.

But if a man takes this seed and plants it, it begins to grow *(unfold tree)* and grow *(unfold tree)* and grow *(unfold tree)*.

It becomes such a big tree that the birds of the air come and make nests in the branches, where they can find shelter and be safe.

Questions without Response:

- I wonder ... how such a big tree can grow from a tiny seed?
- I wonder ... if God can use tiny people, just as he uses tiny seeds?
- I wonder ... how birds feel when they find a safe place to build their nest?
- I wonder ... if there are people who need to find a safe place to build their lives?