

THE GARDEN PATH



A Worship Series On
Walking in the Way of Salvation

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WORSHIP KIT

THE GARDEN PATH

A Worship Series On
Walking in the Way of Salvation

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THE GARDEN PATH

A Worship Series On
Walking in the Way of Salvation

About the Series

This is a 4-week series of worship services on CD for the summer or any time of the year on the theme of gardens in the Bible and how we are always growing in the Lord as we walk in the way of salvation in him. In these services parishioners will follow the plan of salvation down the garden path, from the newly created garden of Eden, through the ruin of sin and the garden that held an empty tomb, to the garden of paradise restored.

THE GARDEN PATH

A Worship Series On
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Week 1: Eden: Planted By God

Newsletter Notice

Join us for a worship series, “The Garden Path: Walking in the Way of Salvation.” For the next four weeks we will walk down the garden path and encounter the story of our salvation! Our journey begins in a newly created garden in Eden. God created man and gave him the task of caring for the garden. God puts us to work, too, caring for the world and the people he created and loves.

Bulletin Notice

In our worship service today we find ourselves in the garden of Eden, where God put the man he had created. Adam was to take care of God’s garden. In the same way, God has placed us in the garden of this world, to care for the world and its people as we go about our daily work.

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Week 2: Ruined Gardens

Newsletter Notice

In our worship service this week, we will see how Adam and Eve fell into sin and brought ruin and death into the good world God had created. We will learn about Israel's evil King Ahab, who committed murder to acquire his neighbor's vineyard and turn it into a garden. Our sinful desires bring ruin to the garden of this world and to our own lives. God calls us to repentance and forgives us for the sake of Jesus our Lord.

Bulletin Notice

“Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire” (James 1:14). Israel's evil King Ahab desired a garden so badly that he was willing to allow the murder of an innocent man to get the land he wanted. When our sinful desires bring ruin into our lives, God calls us to repentance. He desires to forgive us for the sake of Jesus our Savior.

THE GARDEN PATH

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Week 3: Gardens of Salvation: From
Gethsemane to the Garden Tomb

Newsletter Notice

In our worship service this week, we will follow our Lord's path from Gethsemane, where he struggled in prayer, to the cross and to the garden tomb where his body was buried. On the third day after his death, on the first Easter morning, our Savior's tomb was found open and empty. Jesus had risen from the dead, and in him we too have the hope and promise of bodily resurrection and eternal life in Jesus' presence.

Bulletin Notice

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus struggled in prayer in a garden called Gethsemane. Our Lord was arrested, put on trial and condemned to death. He was crucified and his body was buried in a tomb in a nearby garden. But that, of course, is not the end of the story. On the first Easter morning that garden tomb was found open and empty! Jesus has risen from the dead!

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Week 4: Paradise: The Garden Restored

Newsletter Notice

While he hung on the cross, Jesus promised the repentant thief, “Today you will be with me in paradise.” In our worship service this week, we will see that the promise of paradise is ours, too, through faith in Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen King.

Bulletin Notice

We look forward by faith to the eternal garden that is called paradise, where we will live in our Lord’s presence forever. During our worship service today, we are reminded that, while we wait for the promise of paradise, we have work to do—works of love and service for others in this garden that is the world God created.

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Week 1: Eden: Planted By God

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THE GARDEN PATH

A Worship Series On
Walking in the Way of Salvation

Week 1: Eden: Planted By God

Order of Service

*The Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east,
and there he put the man whom he had formed. Genesis 2:8*

Opening Hymn..... Unser Herrscher 87 87 77

Open now thy gates of beauty;
Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
Waits for him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
Filled with solace, light and grace!

Gracious God, I come before thee;
Come, thou also unto me.
Where we find thee and adore thee,
There a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter thou;
Let it be thy temple now!

Here thy praise is gladly chanted;
Here thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted,
Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be
Fruitful unto life in me.

Invocation and Litany (Colossians 1:10-12)

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him:

C **Bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;**

P Being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;

C **Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.**

P He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

C **In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C **Almighty God and Father, you placed us in our daily callings to glorify your name, to witness to our Savior and to serve our neighbor. Yet we daily fail in these tasks. We turn from your Word and your will to follow our own sinful desires. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. Have mercy on us and forgive us for the sake of Jesus.**

P God sent his Son, Jesus our Lord, to suffer the penalty of death in our place. Jesus suffered, died and was buried and raised to life to win forgiveness and eternal life for you. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C God has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son!

Prayer of the Day

Hymn of Praise Hymn to Joy 87 87 D

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
Praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

Children's Message

Hymn of Praise Hymn to Joy 87 87 D

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Fountain-head of love divine;
Joyful, we thy heav'n inherit!
Joyful, we by grace are thine!

Old Testament Reading Genesis 2:4-9, 15-17

Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

Gospel Reading John 15:1-8

Sermon Hymn Werde Munter 87 87 77 88

Speak, O Lord, your servant listens,
Let your Word to me come near;
Newborn life and spirit give me,
Let each promise still my fear.
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife,
Wars against your Word of life;
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor
That I cling to you forever!

Oh, what blessing to be near you
And to listen to your voice;
Let me ever love and hear you,
Let your Word be now my choice!
Many hardened sinners, Lord,
Flee in terror at your Word;
But to all who feel sin's burden
You give words of peace and pardon.

Sermon

Hymn of Response Werde Munter 87 87 77 88

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;
Let your words in me take root.
May your Spirit e'er be near me
That I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing your praise,
From my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given
In the endless joy of heaven.

Offering

Prayer

Each petition ends with the following response:

P Jesus, true Vine,

C Help us to bear the fruit of love in your name.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction (John 15:5, 8; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

P Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit,

C For apart from me you can do nothing ...

P By this my Father is glorified,

C That you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

☐ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☐ **Amen.**

Closing Hymn Regent Square 87 87 87

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us,
Trav'ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration
For your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation
In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To your truth may we be found.

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A Worship Series On Walking in the Way of Salvation

Week 1: Eden: Planted By God

Complete Script for Worship Leaders

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/house-adam-eve-tree-life-eden-669119509?src=SGmfmZlkyiVK-05faY5LAG-1-0>

- The **Theme Verse** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before the service begins:

*The Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east,
and there he put the man whom he had formed. Genesis 2:8*

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Unser Herrscher 87 87 77:

Open now thy gates of beauty;
 Zion, let me enter there,
 Where my soul in joyful duty
 Waits for him who answers prayer.
 Oh, how blessed is this place,
 Filled with solace, light and grace!

Gracious God, I come before thee;
 Come, thou also unto me.
 Where we find thee and adore thee,
 There a heav'n on earth must be.
 To my heart, O enter thou;
 Let it be thy temple now!

Here thy praise is gladly chanted;
 Here thy seed is duly sown.
 Let my soul, where it is planted,
 Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
 So that all I hear may be
 Fruitful unto life in me.

- An **Invocation and Litany** (Colossians 1:10-12) are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him:

C **Bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;**

P Being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;

C **Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.**

P He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

C In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- The **Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C Almighty God and Father, you placed us in our daily callings to glorify your name, to witness to our Savior and to serve our neighbor. Yet we daily fail in these tasks. We turn from your Word and your will to follow our own sinful desires. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. Have mercy on us and forgive us for the sake of Jesus.

P God sent his Son, Jesus our Lord, to suffer the penalty of death in our place. Jesus suffered, died and was buried and raised to life to win forgiveness and eternal life for you. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C God has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son!

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor:

P Heavenly Father, you have placed us in this world to be your servants, to carry out the work of our daily callings. Through faith, Jesus our Lord is our true Vine and our source of life. Our sins are forgiven for his sake and we are nourished by your Word and by our Lord's holy Supper. Help us by your Spirit to bear the fruit of love and service in our lives each day so that we might glorify you and witness to our Lord Jesus. Hear our prayer in his name. Amen.

- The **Hymn of Praise** is sung by the congregation to the tune Hymn to Joy 87 87 D:

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
Praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

- The **Children's Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

Needed: various vegetable or flower seed packets

Ⓟ I brought some seeds to show you. These are seeds that I want to plant in my garden (*show the different kinds of seeds*). How many of you have gardens at home? If you have a garden, what kinds of vegetables or flowers do you grow in it? (*Let children share.*) When I plant my garden, should I just throw the seeds in the dirt and walk away and leave it alone? What do I need to do to help my garden? (*Let children respond.*) I can't ignore my garden. I need to pull weeds and water the plants and maybe build a fence around it.

When God made the world, he planted a garden called Eden. God didn't walk away from his new garden and leave it alone. God made the first man, Adam, and he put Adam in Eden to take care of the garden. That was the job that God gave Adam to do. God gives us work to do in his world, too. We can take care of the world God made. We have other work to do in God's world. You can help your parents and do what they tell you to do. If you are in school you can listen and learn about the world God made. Your parents have work too. They work at home to take care of you and they work away from home to earn money to buy the things you need. As we do our work each day, we can help the other people who live in God's world. We can treat them with kindness. You can tell them that God sent Jesus to be their Savior. God put Adam to work taking care of his garden of Eden, and God puts us to work in his world. Each day we go to work for God! Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, thank you for putting us to work in your world each day. Help us to serve you and to share the love of Jesus. Amen.

- The **Hymn of Praise** is sung by the congregation to the tune Hymn to Joy 87 87 D:

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Fountain-head of love divine;
Joyful, we thy heav'n inherit!
Joyful, we by grace are thine!

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Genesis 2:4-9, 15-17, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens. When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil ... The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

- The **Epistle Reading**, 1 Corinthians 3:5-9, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.

- The **Gospel Reading**, John 15:1-8, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

- A **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Werde Munter 87 87 77 88:

Speak, O Lord, your servant listens,
 Let your Word to me come near;
 Newborn life and spirit give me,
 Let each promise still my fear.
 Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife,
 Wars against your Word of life;
 Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor
 That I cling to you forever!

Oh, what blessing to be near you
 And to listen to your voice;
 Let me ever love and hear you,
 Let your Word be now my choice!
 Many hardened sinners, Lord,
 Flee in terror at your Word;
 But to all who feel sin's burden
 You give words of peace and pardon.

- The **Sermon: Planted by God** is delivered by the pastor:

☐ “Bloom Where You are Planted.” Did you ever see that statement on a poster or bumper sticker? It was a popular statement in the past, but it is probably a little outdated by now. Maybe that kind of saying it isn't your style, but it makes a useful point. That popular slogan sums up what God wants us to do. He wants us to bloom—or better said, to bear fruit—in the various places that he has planted us, in our homes and schools and neighborhoods and places of work.

We may not always “bloom where we are planted,” but we often enjoy the work of helping plants to bloom where we plant them. Providing you have sufficient space in the backyard for it, you might plant a garden of vegetables or flowers or both. That is what God did within his newly formed creation, and he had plenty of space for it! After creating Adam, the first man, God planted a garden “in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.” The Creator planted a garden, and in it he planted the first man—and, expecting that first man to bloom where he was planted, God put him to work. Scripture tells us that the Lord God “took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.” Living in paradise was not all about lounging around all day on an extended vacation, although in a sinless paradise, work surely would have been carried out with joy. There was useful work to be done. The man created from the earth now worked the earth to care for God's garden.

We too are to bloom where God has planted us. Like the first man and woman, we are made in God's image. He has placed us in this garden of a world he created "to work it and keep it." In this fallen world, a world stained by sin, work will not always be joyful. After the fall into sin, God warned Adam and Eve of the pain and suffering and sweat that would mark their work, and our work as well, from that point on. But there is still useful work to be done, and God has given us our daily callings—our vocations—as men and women and boys and girls. Our vocations are many and varied, and many of these callings will change with time and circumstances. You may be a husband or wife, a mother or father, son or daughter, grandparent or grandchild, and you will likely be some combination of these. As Adam was put to work in the garden of Eden, we are put to work tending this created world and caring for the people God has placed around us. We may be called to be a teacher or a student, to work in the home or in a place of business. Our careers may vary and change, but these too are our vocations, our callings. As the Creator, God still cares for the world that he made. He is always at work sustaining his creation and providing for its creatures. He is at work through our daily vocations to care for others and bring order to his creation. This is the work God has given us to do in this world's garden.

In Eden's garden, Adam and Eve trusted God to supply their needs and their Creator did so. They worshiped the God who created them; they enjoyed his fellowship and carried out their daily tasks. There was one thing they were not to do, and that is exactly what they chose to do. They were not to eat the fruit of one tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But Satan, described in Scripture as "that ancient serpent" (Revelation 12:9), tempted Eve to doubt God's Word and command. She fell to temptation and ate the fruit forbidden to them. She gave some to Adam and he too ate of the fruit. The first man and woman doubted God's Word; they disobeyed the Creator who provided everything for them. They brought ruin into that beautiful garden. We, as their descendants, inherited that stain of sinful rebellion, like a deadly disease passed down from generation to generation. We daily doubt our Creator's Word and choose to go our own ways. We bring ruin to this world's garden, and we bring ruin into our lives and our relationships, our relationships with God, with one another and with the world around us.

But before the world was created, God planned to restore the ruin that would come. In that garden called Eden, God made a promise. A child, a descendant of the woman, would come to crush the tempting serpent who brought sin and death and ruin into the world, even though the child of the woman would himself be crushed in the battle to come.

When the time was right, God sent his own Son into the garden of this world, a son "born of woman," just as he had promised in Eden. Jesus, God's Son, whose name means "God saves," came to do just that—to save us from the ruin of our sin, the ruin we brought on ourselves.

According to God’s plan, Jesus died on a cross, a victim of his enemies, those whom God had called the serpent’s offspring. And Jesus, the offspring of the woman, died “that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil” (Hebrews 2:14). But in the battle that resulted in the defeat of the serpent and the death of the Son, only the Son rose up from death in victory. In his victory he restored what was ruined, restoring our relationship to God and to one another. Each of us, through Baptism, is called “a new creation.”

Now in this earthly garden, we work and grow, grafted by faith into Jesus, who called himself the true Vine. Like healthy branches springing from the main vine stem, we grow, nourished by God’s Word and by the Lord’s Supper. We grow in faith, but we do not only “bloom where we are planted.” Through the power of the Spirit of God, we do much more. We don’t simply bloom, we bear fruit, the fruit of love and service to others in Jesus’ name. As we bloom and bear the fruit of love, we bring glory to God, our Father and Creator. As we bear fruit, we prove to the world that we are Jesus’ disciples. We have the opportunity to be witnesses for our Lord, and invite others too to be grafted into the source of life that is Jesus the true Vine. So, as Adam was put to work in the garden of Eden, God has put you to work here in his world. Will you bloom where you are planted? In Jesus Christ the true Vine, by the power of his Spirit, you will bloom—and bear fruit to the glory of God! Amen.

- A **Hymn of Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune Werde Munter 87 87 77 88:

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;
Let your words in me take root.
May your Spirit e’er be near me
That I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing your praise,
From my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given
In the endless joy of heaven.

- The **Offering** is collected at this time.
- The **Prayers** are offered:

Each petition ends with the following response:

P Jesus, true Vine,

C Help us to bear the fruit of love in your name.

+

P Lord Jesus, we have been placed in this world to carry out the work of our daily callings and so bring glory to you, our Creator and Savior. Bless our work each day in every place, so that by our love others will know that we are your disciples. Jesus, true Vine,

C Help us to bear the fruit of love in your name.

P Lord Jesus, we pray for those who are ill or suffering in fear, doubt or depression, especially ... and those we name in our hearts. Work through us to help them in their physical need and to bring to them the comfort and healing of your Word. Jesus, true Vine,

C Help us to bear the fruit of love in your name.

P Lord Jesus, we pray that our works of love will be a witness to the love you showed to us in your atoning death and triumphant resurrection. Help us to grow in faith and in the knowledge of your Word, so that we will be better equipped to share the good news with a world lost in the ruin of sin. Jesus, true Vine,

C Help us to bear the fruit of love in your name.

P Amen.

- The **Lord's Prayer** is spoken in unison.
- The **Benediction** (John 15:5, 8; 2 Corinthians 13:14) is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit,

C For apart from me you can do nothing ...

P By this my Father is glorified,

C That you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

- The **Closing Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Herr Jesu Christ, Meins LM:

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us,
Trav'ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration
For your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation
In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To your truth may we be found.

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Week 1: Eden: Planted By God

Scripture Readings

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Genesis 2:4-9, 15-17, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
 - Ⓟ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens. When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil ... The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

- The **Epistle Reading**, 1 Corinthians 3:5-9, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

- The **Gospel Reading**, John 15:1-8, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

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Sample

THE GARDEN PATH

A Worship Series On Walking in the Way of Salvation

Week 1: Eden: Planted By God

Children's Message

- The **Children's Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

Needed: various vegetable or flower seed packets

P I brought some seeds to show you. These are seeds that I want to plant in my garden (*show the different kinds of seeds*). How many of you have gardens at home? If you have a garden, what kinds of vegetables or flowers do you grow in it? (*Let children share.*) When I plant my garden, should I just throw the seeds in the dirt and walk away and leave it alone? What do I need to do to help my garden? (*Let children respond.*) I can't ignore my garden. I need to pull weeds and water the plants and maybe build a fence around it.

When God made the world, he planted a garden called Eden. God didn't walk away from his new garden and leave it alone. God made the first man, Adam, and he put Adam in Eden to take care of the garden. That was the job that God gave Adam to do. God gives us work to do in his world, too. We can take care of the world God made. We have other work to do in God's world. You can help your parents and do what they tell you to do. If you are in school you can listen and learn about the world God made. Your parents have work too. They work at home to

take care of you and they work away from home to earn money to buy the things you need. As we do our work each day, we can help the other people who live in God's world. We can treat them with kindness. You can tell them that God sent Jesus to be their Savior. God put Adam to work taking care of his garden of Eden, and God puts us to work in his world. Each day we go to work for God! Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, thank you for putting us to work in your world each day. Help us to serve you and to share the love of Jesus. Amen.

Creative
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Sample

THE GARDEN PATH

A Worship Series On Walking in the Way of Salvation

Week 1: Eden: Planted By God

Sermon

- The **Sermon: Planted by God** is delivered by the pastor:

☐ “Bloom Where You are Planted.” Did you ever see that statement on a poster or bumper sticker? It was a popular statement in the past, but it is probably a little outdated by now. Maybe that kind of saying it isn’t your style, but it makes a useful point. That popular slogan sums up what God wants us to do. He wants us to bloom—or better said, to bear fruit—in the various places that he has planted us, in our homes and schools and neighborhoods and places of work.

We may not always “bloom where we are planted,” but we often enjoy the work of helping plants to bloom where we plant them. Providing you have sufficient space in the backyard for it, you might plant a garden of vegetables or flowers or both. That is what God did within his newly formed creation, and he had plenty of space for it! After creating Adam, the first man, God planted a garden “in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.” The Creator planted a garden, and in it he planted the first man—and, expecting that first man to bloom where he was planted, God put him to work. Scripture tells us that the Lord God “took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.” Living in paradise

was not all about lounging around all day on an extended vacation, although in a sinless paradise, work surely would have been carried out with joy. There was useful work to be done. The man created from the earth now worked the earth to care for God's garden.

We too are to bloom where God has planted us. Like the first man and woman, we are made in God's image. He has placed us in this garden of a world he created "to work it and keep it." In this fallen world, a world stained by sin, work will not always be joyful. After the fall into sin, God warned Adam and Eve of the pain and suffering and sweat that would mark their work, and our work as well, from that point on. But there is still useful work to be done, and God has given us our daily callings—our vocations—as men and women and boys and girls. Our vocations are many and varied, and many of these callings will change with time and circumstances. You may be a husband or wife, a mother or father, son or daughter, grandparent or grandchild, and you will likely be some combination of these. As Adam was put to work in the garden of Eden, we are put to work tending this created world and caring for the people God has placed around us. We may be called to be a teacher or a student, to work in the home or in a place of business. Our careers may vary and change, but these too are our vocations, our callings. As the Creator, God still cares for the world that he made. He is always at work sustaining his creation and providing for its creatures. He is at work through our daily vocations to care for others and bring order to his creation. This is the work God has given us to do in this world's garden.

In Eden's garden, Adam and Eve trusted God to supply their needs and their Creator did so. They worshiped the God who created them; they enjoyed his fellowship and carried out their daily tasks. There was one thing they were not to do, and that is exactly what they chose to do. They were not to eat the fruit of one tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But Satan, described in Scripture as "that ancient serpent" (Revelation 12:9), tempted Eve to doubt God's Word and command. She fell to temptation and ate the fruit forbidden to them. She gave some to Adam and he too ate of the fruit. The first man and woman doubted God's Word; they disobeyed the Creator who provided everything for them. They brought ruin into that beautiful garden. We, as their descendants, inherited that stain of sinful rebellion, like a deadly disease passed down from generation to generation. We daily doubt our Creator's Word and choose to go our own ways. We bring ruin to this world's garden, and we bring ruin into our lives and our relationships, our relationships with God, with one another and with the world around us.

But before the world was created, God planned to restore the ruin that would come. In that garden called Eden, God made a promise. A child, a descendant of the woman, would come to crush the tempting serpent who brought sin and death and ruin into the world, even though the child of the woman would himself be crushed in the battle to come.

When the time was right, God sent his own Son into the garden of this world, a son "born of woman," just as he had promised in Eden. Jesus, God's Son, whose name means "God saves,"

came to do just that—to save us from the ruin of our sin, the ruin we brought on ourselves. According to God’s plan, Jesus died on a cross, a victim of his enemies, those whom God had called the serpent’s offspring. And Jesus, the offspring of the woman, died “that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil” (Hebrews 2:14). But in the battle that resulted in the defeat of the serpent and the death of the Son, only the Son rose up from death in victory. In his victory he restored what was ruined, restoring our relationship to God and to one another. Each of us, through Baptism, is called “a new creation.”

Now in this earthly garden, we work and grow, grafted by faith into Jesus, who called himself the true Vine. Like healthy branches springing from the main vine stem, we grow, nourished by God’s Word and by the Lord’s Supper. We grow in faith, but we do not only “bloom where we are planted.” Through the power of the Spirit of God, we do much more. We don’t simply bloom, we bear fruit, the fruit of love and service to others in Jesus’ name. As we bloom and bear the fruit of love, we bring glory to God, our Father and Creator. As we bear fruit, we prove to the world that we are Jesus’ disciples. We have the opportunity to be witnesses for our Lord, and invite others too to be grafted into the source of life that is Jesus the true Vine. So, as Adam was put to work in the garden of Eden, God has put you to work here in his world. Will you bloom where you are planted? In Jesus Christ the true Vine, by the power of his Spirit, you will bloom—and bear fruit to the glory of God! Amen.

THE GARDEN PATH

A Worship Series On
Walking in the Way of Salvation

Week 1: Eden: Planted By God

Music Guide

Unser Herrscher 87 87 77.....	112-113
Hymn to Joy 87 87 D.....	114-115
Werde Munter 87 87 77 88.....	116-117
Herr Jesu Christ, Meins LM.....	118-119
Contemporary Music Song Suggestions	120

The image displays a musical score for the piece 'Unser Herrscher' (87 87 77). The score is written in G minor (one flat) and 3/4 time. It consists of six systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the bass clef provides harmonic support with chords and bass lines. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'Creative Communications Sample' is overlaid across the center of the page.

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Unser Herrscher 87 87 77:

Open now thy gates of beauty;
Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
Waits for him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
Filled with solace, light and grace!

Gracious God, I come before thee;
Come, thou also unto me.
Where we find thee and adore thee,
There a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter thou;
Let it be thy temple now!

Here thy praise is gladly chanted;
Here thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted,
Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be
Fruitful unto life in me.

Measures 1-5 of the piano accompaniment for 'Hymn to Joy'. The music is in G major (one sharp) and common time. The right hand features a melody of quarter notes, while the left hand provides a bass line with chords and single notes.

Measures 6-10 of the piano accompaniment. The right hand continues the melodic line with some eighth-note patterns, and the left hand maintains the harmonic support with chords and moving bass lines.

Measures 11-15 of the piano accompaniment. The right hand melody includes some chromatic movement, and the left hand continues with a steady bass line.

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- The **Hymn of Praise** is sung by the congregation to the tune Hymn to Joy 87 87
D:

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
Praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

- The **Children's Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader.
- The **Hymn of Praise** is sung by the congregation to the tune Hymn to Joy 87 87
D:

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Fountain-head of love divine;
Joyful, we thy heav'n inherit!
Joyful, we by grace are thine!