



### **The Season of Ordinary Time**

According to the church calendar, Ordinary Time is the time in between liturgical seasons. Rather than meaning common or mundane, the term “ordinary” (derived from the Latin root *ordo*) denotes ordered or counted time (First Sunday, Second Sunday, etc.). The period of Ordinary Time after Pentecost marks the passage of time between Trinity Sunday and Christ the King Sunday, which is the final Sunday of the liturgical year. During this portion of Ordinary Time, we focus on transformation and growth.

### **A Kingdom Like Heaven**

The kingdom of heaven is a phrase that often evokes ideas about life after death, or a particular tribe that includes some and excludes others. However, these conceptions seem to be far from Jesus’ more prominent notions of a kingdom called *heaven*. For Jesus, the kingdom of heaven appears to be more about a way of being in the world that could, perhaps, be called *the realm of the divine* or *the mode of love*. According to Jesus, this realm, this mode, this heavenly kingdom, breaks into the world here and now in unexpected, subversive, and intoxicating ways when love is made manifest.

This sermon series seeks to subvert and redefine our contemporary notions of what it means to be great, to grow, to show mercy, to be rich, and to live in abundance. It then hopes to explain and inspire ways of being in the world that make love manifest and evoke heaven on earth.

### **Sermon Outline**

July 2nd, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Ordinary Time)

*The Realm of Greatness, Matthew 11:1-19*

July 9th, Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Ordinary Time)

*The Realm of Growing, Matthew 13:1-23*

July 16th, Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Ordinary Time)

*The Realm of Mercy, Matthew 18:21-35*

July 23rd, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (Ordinary Time)

*The Realm of Wealth, Matthew 19:13-30*

July 30th, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (Ordinary Time)

*The Realm of Abundance, Matthew 20:1-16*