

## **The PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

This spring season has been a cold and wet one, and I am eagerly waiting for some warm and sunny weather. The weather has affected my attempt to do some gardening and spring cleaning around the house. Some of my neighbours have been active in doing the necessary yard work to keep their property looking good and healthy. As I watch people work at keeping their residence neat and tidy, and see many other individuals outside walking, running or cycling to maintain healthy bodies, it makes me wonder, "Are people so consumed with keeping up appearances that they neglect their spiritual body?"

Jesus said that a person should not worry about what can kill the body, but instead worry about what can kill the soul. (Matthew 10:28) Look at the wonderful creation God has given to us, especially during springtime. Why do individuals, who should be concerned about the environment, not be concerned about their spiritual well being?

I have always maintained that our community of faith provides a place where one can nourish their soul. It is when Christians gather on Sunday to be fed by word and sacrament that their soul is nourished. Maybe we Christians should advertise our house of worship as a garden centre – Come and hear advice from our gardening expert, God, about how your talents can be fed and fertilized!

Throughout the ages the church, which comprises people of faith, has produced many good worthy causes which benefit humanity. God, the gardener, is always calling for us to care for the soul. Caring for our spiritual soul through prayer and worship leads to a greater fulfillment of life compared to the vanities of a world consumed with wealth, power, material goods and outward appearance.

Enjoy the coming warm days of summer and rest. As we tend to the maintenance of our homes and our physical bodies, let us not overlook spending time maintaining the health of our soul too. "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink or about your body . . . But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:25, 33 RSV

See you in church,  
Pastor Jukka