**Sunday 19th July 2020** WORSHIP AT HOME: **Matthew 13.24-30,36-43**

Welcome to our act of Worship

Call to worship

‘Teach me your way, O Lord,
that I may walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.’ *Psalm 86v11*

A Prayer of Approach

Almighty God, Creator of all life,
we come with heart, mind and voice
desiring to understand the mystery of your love revealed to us in Jesus Christ.
We use language searching to articulate the inexpressible.
We use thought seeking to convey the unsearchable.
We use mystery to express the inconceivable.
We gather, frail human beings with our language, thought and sense;
and we are filled with awe and wonder as we ponder upon the mysteries of faith and of your love and belief in us. **Amen.**

HYMN: How shall I sing that majesty...

HP8, MP-, RS661, STF53

(Some of the hymn books widely used in the Wiltshire United Area)

*Prayers of Praise*

God, your glory shine upon us, scattering our darkness with the joy and radiance of your presence. You reveal to us your love and mercy in Jesus Christ your Son, that through him we may offer you our praise.

To you, Lord God, belongs the worship of our hearts and minds, the human of all peoples, now and forever, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Prayer of Confession*

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Saviour Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.
**Amen.**

HYMN Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer

HP350, MP-, RS48 , STF125

Ministry of the Word of God

Isaiah 44.6-8; Psalm 86.11-17; Romans 8.12-25;

**GOSPEL** **Matthew 13.24-30,36-43** with emphasis on **37He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; 38the field is the world…”**

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

Reflection

*“There’s no such thing as a free lunch”* After the last couple of weeks I might add, *“There’s no such thing as free soil*”. Some may recall that in last Sunday’s reflection I had spent a good amount of time transporting rich loam soil from someone’s skip (with their permission). This week it has shown its true colours, being richly endowed with *Calystegia sepium,* more commonly known as bindweed!

This week our Gospel reading speaks of weeds, but it is a most unusual parable, where what we imagine what we should do – pull up the weeds yet are told not to. What is going on, Jesus gives us a definition, but how do we relate that to the world of the here and now, not least because there are “weeds” in our own lives, for none of us are perfect and there are plenty of “weeds” and in the world around us?

It is on a surface level confusing, we are expecting advice on how to get rid of the problem, instead we are told that we had better learn to live with the problem or we will end up becoming the problem. Our job is to be good wheat, not to be the gardener. Leave the gardening to God and get on with growing!

As we continue to live amidst the pandemic some personal illustrations of a growing harvest: each week I continue to spend two full days in NHS Chaplaincy. I look at the nursing and medical staff and realise how young they are, but they have been putting their lives on the line caring for patients with Covid pneumonia. A family rang desperate to see their loved one, who was not expect to pull-through, despite having just finished a gruelling 12 hour shift in Intensive Care the Sister stayed on and facilitated a family visit. There are a group who call themselves “Sewing Scrubbers” who with their sewing machines have made countless sets of “scrubs” – absolutely invaluable. Children have made cards and posters. Local WI’s have endlessly baked cakes for the staff. Then there has been Captain Tom Moore who raised so much money that “tablets” are now available for “virtual visits” between patients and relatives, some of whom have not seen each other in months! Some weeks we have all been utterly exhausted, getting the train back one week the Train Manager looked at my ID badge and said, “Go and sit in First Class”. I think of the person who despite leaving for work at 5am insists on picking me up from Westbury station each night when I get back. I think of the prayers of so many which have given such strength, especially with my work in Intensive Care. (Space prevents listing so much more!)

Think of your own situation – think of the people who are doing shopping for neighbours, making regular phone calls or social-distanced visiting.

Covid-19 is horrendous BUT there is such a harvest growing. We give thanks to God for all those who have sought in the presence of the pandemic to produce a harvest of goodness, grace, love and HOPE. Let us leave the weeds to God and focus our energies on making a good harvest.

Prayer of Response

*Said Jesus … “The field is the world.”*
Lord, I live in a tiny patch of your world
but it is still my field to serve you.
I pray that I will give my time and gifts
to you and yours
in whatever way I can.
Your kingdom come, O Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN Brother, sister, let me serve you

HP-, MP-, RS474, STF611

Our Prayers

Lord God, we pray for our world and its people.
So many different cultures, colours, languages
– but we are all your children, all special in our own right.
Whatever our gender, race, colour or creed, we all belong to you. **We all need your love.**
We pray that we might learn to live in harmony with each other,
to recognise that even someone halfway around the world is still
our neighbour in your sight. Far or near, we all belong to you. **We all need your love.**
With today’s technology we have access to news from afar, almost before it happens.

Help us not to become blasé about
the situations we see, but to pray and care faithfully for all concerned.
In war or peace, in health or sickness, we all belong to you. **We all need your love.**

We pray for all around the world suffering from or affected by Covid 19. Be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness be their consolation, in their anxiety, be their hope, in their darkness be their light.

In sickness or in health, we all belong to you. **We all need your love.**

We pray for those near and dear to us: protect them, wrap them
in your loving arms, and in sorrow and in joy, be with them.
Near or far, we all belong to you. **We all need your love. Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HYMN Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go

HP381, MP159, RS521, STF550

Blessing

Produce a rich harvest: Be swift to love, make haste to be kind and serve in peace. And the rich blessing of God: Creator, Redeemer, Enabler, be with us, those we love and those we ought to love. **Amen.**

Rev David Coppard Superintendent @ Wiltshire United Area

Bank Chaplain @ Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton

***Our churches may not be open, but the Church is alive.***

*This is service is offered to any and all, with love and prayers.*

A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit Among the People of God

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ’s body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbours, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Washington National Cathedral*

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**Matthew 13.24-30,36-43**

**24 He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; 25but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. 26So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. 27And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?” 28He answered, “An enemy has done this.” The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” 29But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. 30Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’**

**36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’****37He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; 38the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, 39and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, 42and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!**

**Storytelling** The Gospel for Little People

Use the simple actions (see *italics*) as you tell the story.

Jesus told a story:
A farmer planted wheat seeds in his field *–*but someone else came to the field and planted weeds!
(*mime planting*)
The wheat started to grow. And so did the weeds.
(*wiggle fingers*)
The weeds grew and grew. But still the wheat grew.
(*wiggle fingers*)
The farm workers wanted to pull the weeds up,
but the farmer said, “No, it will damage the wheat.”
(*shake finger*)
The weeds grew and grew. But still the wheat grew.
(*wiggle fingers and raise arms*)

When harvest time came, the farmer harvested the weeds and the wheat.
He separated them into weeds and wheat.’
(*turn one palm upwards and then the other*)

This would also work as part of an online children's session - live or pre-recorded.

**Create and Pray**

Together plant seeds into pots of soil and pray:

**Lord,
as these seeds grow,
may we remember that you are always there,
in everything we see and do. Amen.**

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**How shall I sing that Majesty T Coe Fen**Which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
Sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
Thousands of thousands stand around
Thy throne, O God most high;
Ten thousand times ten thousand sound
Thy praise; but who am I?

Thy brightness unto them appears,
Whilst I Thy footsteps trace;
A sound of God comes to my ears,
But they behold Thy face.
They sing because Thou art their Sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
For where heaven is but once begun
There alleluias be.

How great a being, Lord, is Thine,
Which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
To sound so vast a deep.
Thou art a sea without a shore,
A sun without a sphere;
Thy time is now and evermore,
Thy place is everywhere.

**Praise and thanksgiving, T Bunessan**

Father, we offer,
For all things living
You have made good;
Harvest of sown fields,
Fruits of the orchard,
Hay from the mown fields,
blossom and wood.

Lord, bless the labour
We bring to serve you,
That with our neighbour
we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling,
We would work with you;
Harvesting, milling,
For daily bread.

Father, providing
Food for your children,
Your wisdom guiding
Teaches us share
One with another,
So that, rejoicing
sister and brother
May know your care.

Then will your blessing
Reach every people;
Each one confessing
Your gracious hand.
When you are reigning
No one will hunger:
Your love sustaining
Fruitful the land.

**Brother, sister, let me serve you; T Servant Song**let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

 Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that l may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

**Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go**My daily labour to pursue
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know
In all I think, or speak, or do

The task Thy wisdom hath assigned
O let me cheerfully fulfil
In all my works Thy presence find
And prove Thy acceptable will

Thee may I set at my right hand
Whose eyes my inmost substance see
And labour on at Thy command
And offer all my works to Thee

Give me to bear Thy easy yoke
And every moment watch and pray
And still to things eternal look
And hasten to Thy glorious day

For Thee delightfully employ
Whate'er Thy bounteous grace hath given
And run my course with even joy
And closely walk with Thee to heaven

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