**19 July 2020 Sixth Sunday after Trinity Green**

**Genesis 28.10-19a Psalm 139.1-11,23-24 Romans 8.12-25**

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

**Opening responses**

O Lord, open our lips **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Give us the joy of your saving help **and sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.**

**Confession and Absolution**

We have not nurtured the gifts you sowed in our hearts.
**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

We have failed to nurture others and helped them in their need

**Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**

We are busy and worried about the Harvest, help us call on you Lord.
**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

**May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw usto himself, and cleanse usfrom all oursins that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Collect of the Day**

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

24Jesus put before the crowd 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.”’

36Then Jesus 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!’

**Reflection**

This is the first week when we have some worship back in the buildings of the Land’s End churches. This is the first week since March 22nd when we can gather to pray and praise God together. This is a new start, a new beginning. What sorts of things were sown in the lockdown that might look like good seeds and what might be know as the weeds in our lives?

A wise gardener once said that weeds were just plants in the wrong place! So perhaps some of the “weeds” sown are not so much bad as in the wrong place. Someone has told me that they join in with Sunday prayers on Facebook in their PJs – perhaps not something we want to encourage in the church building! Other folk have really found strength and help in the daily prayers or having time to stop and think and pray without the chaos of usual life.

So, as we look at some form of returning to normal, I wonder if it helps to remember this reading, that for us we need to work out what is a weed or good seed? Sometimes this is not immediately obvious. Can you take a moment and sit quietly with a pen and paper – or mobile phone note app – and just jot down the good things about lockdown, the things you have missed and the things that you did not miss but thought you would! What has helped you become at peace during this time, and what has not helped?

There is a temptation to celebrate that we are not encouraged to root out the weeds straight away. Wedding is back breaking work at the best of times! But do not be lulled into a false sense of security, for the weeding does need to happen, we are only putting off this to allow the good seed to take proper roots and not be destroyed by the weeding. The hard work is not avoided, just delayed. The weeds will need to be burnt to avoid them taking over again.

As we move into openness can we perhaps keep hold of the good seed, and discard the weeds? This year we celebrate Lammas on the first Sunday in August, and harvest in September. What will be the first fruits that you offer to God, and what will be your harvest thanksgiving this year?

**Intercessions from Common Worship the Church of England Liturgy Resource**

Let us offer our prayers to God for the life of the world and for all God’s people in their daily life and work. God, the beginning and end of all things, in your providence and care you watch unceasingly over all creation; we offer our prayers that in us and in all your people your will may be done, according to your wise and loving purpose in Christ our Lord.

Lord of all life: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all through whom we receive sustenance and life; for farmers and agricultural workers, for packers, distributors and company boards; as you have so ordered our life that we depend upon each other, enable us by your grace to seek the well-being of others before our own.

Lord of all creation: **hear our prayer**

We pray for all engaged in research to safeguard crops against disease, and to produce abundant life among those who hunger and whose lives are at risk.

Prosper the work of their hands and the searching of their minds, that their labour may be for the welfare of all.

Lord of all wisdom: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for governments and aid agencies, and those areas of the world where there is disaster, drought and starvation. By the grace of your Spirit,

touch our hearts and the hearts of all who live in comfortable plenty, and make us wise stewards of your gifts.

Lord of all justice: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are ill, remembering those in hospital and nursing homes and all who are known to us. We pray for all who care for them.

Give skill and understanding to all who work for their well-being.

Lord of all compassion: **hear our prayer.**

We remember those who have died, whom we entrust to your eternal love

in the hope of resurrection to new life.

Lord of all peace: **hear our prayer.**

We offer ourselves to your service, asking that by the Spirit at work in us

others may receive a rich harvest of love and joy and peace.

Lord of all faithfulness: **hear our prayer.**

God of grace, as you are ever at work in your creation, so fulfil your wise and loving purpose in us and in all for whom we pray, that with them and in all that you have made, your glory may be revealed and the whole earth give praise to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Concluding with the Lord’s Prayer:**

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

**Closing Prayers**

God the Creator of the world give you seeds to sow and time to harvest, Jesus our Lord and Saviour help you to weed your garden and nourish the good seed, Holy Life Breathing Spirit, sweep away all the brambles and weeds that obstruct our lives and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

Jesus, Lord of time, **hold us in your eternity.**
Jesus, image of God, **travel with us the life of faith.**Jesus, friend of sinners, **heal the brokenness of our world.**Jesus, Lord of tomorrow, **draw us into your future. Amen.**

Go and live the welcome of God, the peace of God and the love of God

**We go in peace and love to welcome God in one another. Amen.**

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