

2026 07 19 WORSHIP AT HOME

Dear friends,

Another story involving seeds this week – this one of weeds sown amongst the wheat. Through this parable we can learn of God's infinite patience with humanity, allowing good and bad to live side by side. As we consider his goodness and mercy should we ask ourselves, 'Are we willing to live with others with whom we find it hard to relate?' As always, I wish you all every blessing. Margaret.

Call to worship:

Lord, you have searched us and known us in every moment of our lives – from our mother's womb – when we rise in the morning – when we lay our heads to sleep – on each step of our journey and before we open our mouths to speak. Now we are here to worship you for you have searched us and you know us through and through. Amen.

Lord, you have created me in your own image, formed me carefully from my earliest days, guided me each step of my life as a loving parent holds the hand of an anxious toddler.
I am precious and wonderful in your sight.

Help me to see myself as you see me – not as other people or the media tell me I should be. Help me to know always that as part of your family I am a child of God, in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The words to 'May the mind of Christ my Saviour' by Katie Barclay Wilkinson [1859-1928] StF 504

1 May the mind of Christ my Saviour live in me from day to day,
by his love and power controlling all I do or say.

2 May the word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph only through his power.

3 May the peace of God my Father rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing.

4 May the love of Jesus fill me as the waters fill the sea;
him exalting, self forgetting – this is victory.

5 May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus as I onward go.

Prayer: Abba Father, Awesome God who
 Day by day looks
 Out for us wherever we go, be it
 Right down to the depths of despair or
 Airborne on wings soaring high.
 Touching Love that knows us
 Intimately and holds us tightly by the hand
 On our journey through life,
 Never letting go, always our leading light. Amen.

ADORATION

Almighty God, we are your harvest. As we stand before you we give thanks for the fruit of our lives, and we also remember where we have fallen short of the ideals of your kingdom, where weeds have grown up amongst the good you have planted in us.

Where we have spoken without thinking, causing hurt to others – Father, forgive us.

Where things have been more important to us than people – father, forgive us.

Where our hearts have turned to malice and jealousy – Father, forgive us.

Where we have neglected you for the sake of the busyness of our lives – Father, forgive us.

Lord of the harvest, forgive us where we have fallen short. Tend us gently so that we may learn to imitate your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen. [prayer based on Matthew 13: 4-30]

Father, you sent your Son, Jesus, down to earth to free us from the bonds of sin.

Jesus, through your cross, you opened the door to forgiveness and freedom, making us co-heirs.

Holy Spirit, you lead us in this new life. May we know your presence day by day. Amen.

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come and 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.

Matthew 13: 24-30 and 36-43 taken from The Holy Bible – The New Testament [A New Translation] by William Barclay. Copyright William Barclay 1968

Jesus gave them another parable to think about. ‘What happens in the Kingdom of Heaven is like what happened when a man sowed good seed in his field. When everyone was asleep, his enemy came and sowed darnel among the corn, and went away. When the blade sprouted, and when it began to produce its crop, then the darnel appeared. The servants of the master of the house came to him.

“Sir,” they said, “didn’t you sow good seed in your field? How did the darnel get into it?”

“This is the work of an enemy,” he said.

“Do you want us to go and gather the darnel?” the servants asked him.

“No,” he said. “If you gather the darnel, the danger is that you may tear up the corn by the roots at the same time. Let them both grow together, until the harvest time. At the harvest time I will give instructions to the reapers, first to gather the darnel and tie it up in bundles for burning, and then to gather the corn and store it in my granary.”

Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. His disciples came to him. “Tell us,” they said, “the meaning of the parable of the darnel in the field.”

‘The sower of the good seed,’ Jesus answered, ‘stands for the Son of Man. The field stands for the world. The good seed stands for the children of the Kingdom. The darnel stands for the children of the Evil One. The enemy who sowed them stands for the Devil. The harvest stands for the end of the world as we know it. The reapers stand for the angels. The collecting of the darnel and the burning of it in the fire is a picture of what is going to happen at the end of the world. The Son of Man will send his angels to weed out of the Kingdom all those who are a cause of sin to others, and all who act lawlessly, and to throw them into the blazing furnace. There will be tears and agony there. But the good shall shine like the sun in their Father’s Kingdom. If a man has ears, let him hear.’

Meditation of a listener to Jesus – taken from A Most Amazing Man year A written by Nick Fawcett. Copyright 2010 Nick Fawcett

He spoke of separating wheat from weeds, of harvesting one and discarding the other, as though the two can be clearly distinguished.

And, of course, they *can*, but what about good and evil, right and wrong – the dichotomy Jesus really had in mind – are they so easily disentangled?

Oh, there's a difference all right, all the difference in the world – but which best describes you? Isn't there a bit of both in each of us? There is in *me*, that's for sure – worthy deeds one minute being marred by unworthy ones the next.

So, when the time for judgement comes, where will that leave us: considered fruitful fit to be saved – or cast aside like so much chaff?

It's not straightforward, is it – and perhaps Jesus never meant it to be, his precise point being that, in all of us, good and evil grow together; that alongside the fertile seed he sows in our hearts there is that sown by temptation – both competing for a hold.

That's the way of things in this life, the way it's always been – but one day, he tells us, it will change. His kingdom seeing an end to all that opposes his will.

Until then, we must cultivate the good as best we can, thankful for his mercy now and trusting in his grace to come.

Prayer:

Merciful God,

we mean to serve you, but so often we go astray;

we intend to do good, but end up doing evil;

we strive to walk the way of Christ yet repeatedly follow our own inclinations.

Take the germ of faith within us, the seeds of genuine commitment and nurture them through your love so that they may grow strong and vigorous, despite everything that competes against them.

Grant that, through your grace, any weeds which have crept into our lives may be far outweighed by a bumper crop – a rich and healthy harvest speaking of you. Amen.

Close:

Wonderful God,

you are present in all places and all peoples.

As we live our lives, heighten our senses to you in all things, that others may see your presence in us: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God,

You know us and all that we will face this coming week.

Help us to recognise your presence and your voice in our everyday lives.

May we know that, wherever we will be, our God will be in that place. Amen.

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