

Church Family Worship at Home

19th July 2020

Service Theme: Parable of the Weeds

Welcome

Songs and readings can be found on YouTube Playlist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Fs-qDghP-o&list=PLinajEi0wIWk6WBglRwtCVIiIXI3b-Eqd>

Preparation

We come today as your church.
Brothers and sisters worshipping at home.

May each person feel welcome
And supported by our love and prayers.
Help us to hear your voice in your word today.

As you prepare for worship you may like to listen to

We come to hear your word

RESOUNDworship.org

Gathering Prayer

Lord, we gather and we pause
to think about your world:
such a beautiful place.
We want everything to be perfect,
But we accept it is far from that.
So, bring us together to learn from you
How to be our presence in the world,
How to create a right environment
And to be fruitful for you in all we do.
Keep us always watchful and prayerful.
Amen

Opening Prayer

We are the people of the Kingdom. Come now to worship the Son of Man, come seeking new understanding of all that he has done for us, and of all that we are called to do for the building of the kingdom. Amen

A Prayer of praise

In your great love for us, You made this world.
Everywhere we look, we see Your handiwork,
From the tiniest flower, to the furthest star.
You give us a place to live and work to do,
And people to love.
Your spirit tells us that we are Your children. **Abba, Father, we worship you.**

You sent Jesus to live with us, to die for us,
And to teach us many things.
From him, we learn that we can call you Father.
We can follow His example,
And one day come to live with You for ever.
Your spirit tells us that we are Your children. **Abba, Father, we worship you.**

Because You love us so much,
We can live as hopeful people,
And we do not need to be afraid.
We can cry out to You in praise and thanksgiving,
Because through You we have everything that we need.
Your Spirit tells us that we are Your children. **Abba, Father, we worship you. Amen.**

Song: Thank you Lord as we are all children of God let us praise God joyfully as we sing this song together. It may be new to many of you, but it is easy to pick up and sing along.



BIBLE READING



Reading: Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43 The Parable of the Weeds

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. ²⁷ “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

²⁸ “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

²⁹ “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’

The Parable of the Weeds Explained

³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷ He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

⁴⁰ “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Saying Sorry

Lord of all the world, in the bible story today,
Jesus tells us that a field where crops grow with weeds
can be like people growing together.
We want to be like that corn that produces a good harvest,
But sometimes, we know that we can be more like weeds.
Some weeds can grow big and strong,
And stop good plants from finding the sun.

Forgive us Lord.
When we crowd other people out,
Or don’t give them a chance to know You.

Some weeds have tiny hairs on them
That sting those who touch them.

Forgive us Lord.
When we do or say things that cause others pain.
Some weeds can look pretty
But not be of any use.

Forgive us Lord.
When we think of ourselves



That we forget the needs of others. **Silence**
We thank you, Lord,
That when we turn to you and say that we are sorry,
You forgive us,
Help us to turn to Jesus,
So that we may grow in the right way
And be a blessing to those around us.
In his name we pray. Amen

Sharing the signs of the Kingdom: Share with your friends and family the signs of the Kingdom that you have witnessed in the last few weeks and months. If you don't have someone to talk to at home send a text message or give someone a ring.

Song: Good to me is another song which may be new to you, but it is very catchy and simple to sing at home as we rejoice together in the goodness of God.

Monologue: Country File



Reflection Time



Reflection by Gayle Bryon

Hello children of God,
Jesus tells lots of parables to help us think about the Kingdom of God. Jesus's friends were obviously a bit puzzled about what this one meant so helpfully for us they asked Jesus for an explanation. Jesus likens the farmer to himself and the seed is likened to the children of the kingdom of God. In other words, you, and me.

The farmer plants the good seed right where he wants it to be, he prepares the ground, tends to it needs, and then waits for it to develop and grow. God looks after us in just the same way. The good seed in the story begins to grow well, it sprouts, and the heads of corn are forming. They will soon be beautiful and golden in colour. But then while everyone is sleeping the troublemaker comes along and plants weeds. These weeds are irritating to the skin, they entwine their roots round the wheat endangering its life and if eaten the weeds are poisonous. The weeds clearly cause a lot of damage and harm to the wheat. I am sure we can all think of situations or people that disturb us, cause us hurt, upset and confusion. We can think of good experiences that quickly turned bad. Sometimes in these situations we can get cross with God and blame him for all the wrong things that happen in our life. I came across a weed on Thursday in my own life which has caused me a lot of upset. A weedy situation has occurred on my laptop and currently I have lost all recent files. I have been very cross with myself (as it may well be my mistake) and God. 'Why me, why right now! I have cried to God. My original service (which is one of the lost items) did not have this very personal out cry in it! But I now I need to ask myself, did I fall asleep, was I not paying attention to what I was doing? So, perhaps the first lesson from this parable for all of us to stop and reflect on is about whether we are staying awake and alert to God or are we distracted by the need to get things done our way and in our time?

I wonder what happens if we fall asleep and are not awake or alert to God?

I wonder if you can think of weeds at home, school, work, or church that have disturbed you?

In the story the workers want to react quickly and rashly to the weeds in the field by pulling them up. I can sympathise with their reaction, I have had severe words with my computer,

and I want the weeds gone now and my happy laptop life restored!! The farmer, I imagine, stands back looks at his field and see's potential. He can see the wonderful potential for the wheat to turn golden, he also hopes the weeds will change their ways and come to know his amazing love, mercy, and generosity. What this means for us though is that right now, here on earth, the Kingdom of God is not found only in places of unity and harmony, but it is found in places of chaos, disturbance and hurt. God has prepared the ground for us and he wants us to grow where he has placed us and that means we may have many weedy encounters on the way. This parable can be thought of as a 'reality' parable, the world is described in the way we so often experience it, as a mix of good and bad. God wants us to get on with following him and doing his will where we are. He wants us to share the gospel with the wheat and the weeds. We, along with the rest of our human brothers and sisters, can be good and bad. We make mistakes and get cross, just like I am with myself and my computer! But what counts is that we say sorry to God and continue to live the way he wants us to. God wants to give everyone the opportunity to say sorry and to be his children. This means we have a responsibility of sharing our love for Jesus with family, friends, and community. How can the weeds come to know God if we don't share his love with them?

*What does Jesus want you to learn from this parable?
How can we be more like the farmer?*

I don't think the parable means we should put up with bad behaviour, unfairness, or injustice, we should speak out and work for good in all things, but we should not condemn or do harm to others. This is a challenge for us all, to see the potential in the field just as the farmer did. Judgement always feels like a very scary word to me, I often wonder what Jesus will say to me about the choices I have done in my life and the opportunities I have squandered. I am hoping for a kind if slightly bemused look as I share my life journey with him. Perhaps a way to think more positively about judgement is to imagine it as an end of term awards ceremony where the wheat, the children of God, receive the prize of eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven. The weeds, well that is for God to decide.....

Song: Build your Kingdom Here you may want to sing and dance along at home to this REND Collective song.

Make Together: Make some seed bombs. Throw them into an outdoor space that needs brightening up with some 'good seed'. *(Instructions on final sheet)*

Intercessory Prayer

Lord, God, we pray for our world and its people.
So many different cultures, colours, languages
But we are all your children, 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 half around the world is still
our neighbour in your sight. Far or near, we all belong to you.
We all need your love.

With todays 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, 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

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours
Now and for ever.
Amen.**



BIBLE READING



Reading: Romans 8:12-17

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.^[a] And by him we cry, “*Abba*,^[a] Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank you that we have been able to spend time with you today.
We have felt ourselves grow stronger as we have been blessed with your presence.
Send us out to spread your love, in your precious name.
Amen.

Blessing

God bless you, (*Point to others*)
and God bless me. (*Point to self*)
Amen. (*Wave arms*)

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Children and parents: In the name of Christ, Amen.



How to make seed bombs

You will need:

- Meadow flower seeds or seeds collected from the garden



- Peat-free compost



- Water



- Powdered clay (from craft shops - use clay soil if you can't find any)



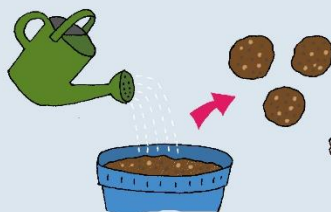
- Mixing bowl



1 In a bowl, mix together 1 cup of seeds with 5 cups of compost and 2-3 cups of clay powder.



2 Slowly mix in water with your hands until everything sticks together, then roll mixture into firm balls.



3

4 Now for the fun bit - plant by throwing your seed bombs at bare parts of the garden!

