



Church Alive Worship for Sunday 19th July



Welcome to our Church Alive service. Whilst we are not all together in church, we are together in spirit. We have tried to adapt our normal service from screen to paper and have provided links to music where possible if you would like to sing. *A big thank you to Debbie Thomson for recording the songs for us. These can be found on our YouTube channel with the links under the title – just hover and click on it*

In our reading today Jesus tells the parable of the wheat and the tares. This parable speaks of how evil lives in the world alongside good but promises that at the end of time God will root it out. In the meantime we have to learn to live with the tensions and complexities of a world with both goodness and evil but knowing ultimately that God will make all things right.

Opening Song: Great is the Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygh8G2Kb-u4>

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise
The city of our God, the holy place
The joy of the whole earth

And Lord, we want to lift Your name on high
And Lord, we want to thank You
For the works You've done in our lives

Great is the Lord in whom we have the victory
He aids us against the enemy
We bow down on our knees

And Lord, we trust in Your unfailing love
For You alone are God eternal
Throughout earth and heaven above

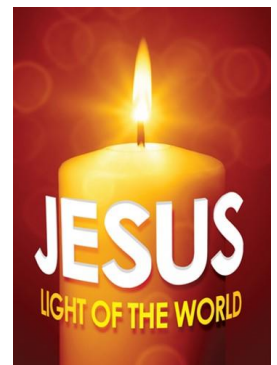


Thanksgiving

What would you like to say thank you to God for today and this week?
Take a moment to say thank you now.

Opening Prayer: *If you are able, and it is safe to do so, light a candle at this point*

Lord, we light this candle, to remind
us that you are the light of the world.
As we gather together in spirit,
make our voices ready to sing your praise;
our hearts open to receive your love
and our minds alive to your Spirit.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



We seek God's healing and forgiveness

Lord, I confess to you this morning
that I'm not very patient with the weeds in my life.
I try to yank them out, without thinking of any harm that may cause,
to me or others.
Sometimes, I'm so frightened that those tangles will overcome me
that I try to ignore them, pretending they're not there.
Please forgive me, Lord,
and help me to trust you to show me your way.
Amen.

We hear words assuring us of God's forgiveness

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Bible Reading – Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: "The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ One night, when everyone was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶ When the plants grew and the heads of grain began to form, then the weeds showed up. ²⁷ The man's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, it was good seed you sowed in your field; where did the weeds come from?' ²⁸ 'It was some enemy who did this,' he answered. 'Do you want us to go and pull up the weeds?' they asked him. ²⁹ 'No,' he answered, 'because as you gather the weeds you might pull up some of the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let the wheat and the weeds both grow together until harvest. Then I will tell the harvest workers to pull up the weeds first, tie them in bundles and burn them, and then to gather in the wheat and put it in my barn.'"

³⁶ When Jesus had left the crowd and gone indoors, his disciples came to him and said, "Tell us what the parable about the weeds in the field means."

³⁷ Jesus answered, "The man who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world; the good seed is the people who belong to the Kingdom; the weeds are the people who belong to the Evil One; ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed the weeds is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvest workers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are gathered up and burned in the fire, so the same thing will happen at the end of the age: ⁴¹ the Son of Man will send out his angels to gather up out of his Kingdom all those who cause people to sin and all others who do evil things, ⁴² and they will throw them into the fiery furnace, where they will cry and gnash their teeth. ⁴³ [a] Then God's people will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom. Listen, then, if you have ears!

Introducing the Theme & Learning Spaces *Not being able to break out into our learning spaces, here are a few thoughts about the theme for today. For young people you can use the Children's and Youth sheets that are being sent out separately.*

Jesus knew his audience....they were gardeners and growers like so many of us. How wise Jesus was to link his teaching about the Kingdom of God with such an everyday occupation. Like those first listeners, those of us with gardens and allotments can picture our plants and weeds growing in plots together.

Weeds are simply plants growing where we do not want them to grow and they have to be admired..... Weeds produce large numbers of seeds that are easily spread; they grow quickly to establish plants that successfully compete with our plants for sunlight, water and mineral nutrients in the soil. Once established, removing the weeds will damage our plants because their roots are deep.

This parable tells us that the good signs of the Kingdom of God, that is the wheat, often exist alongside negative elements, that is the weeds. As God's workers in his Kingdom we are told that we must leave sorting out the bad things to God when the time is right.

It is easy for us to feel overwhelmed with the evil in the world when we only see the 'weeds', but there is so much good growing and yielding useful products in God's Kingdom. What signs of the Kingdom are we overlooking because we are concentrating and fretting ourselves about the bad things happening in the world today?

What can we do to encourage the good things so that they outgrow the bad things? Perhaps we need to adopt some of the strategies of weeds to grow the Kingdom of God in our world today?

All Age Creative – The news

Have a look at some stories in a newspaper or if you have children watch a CBBC's newsround.

- How do the stories make you feel?
- Do some make you feel happy, or sad?
- Are there signs of an imperfect world in the newspaper or this edition of newsround?
- Are there any signs of God's kingdom?
- How do we live as Christians in our world?
- What message do we have to those around us?

Picture Reflection – prepared by Brenda

Spend a few minutes with this unusual picture.....what can you see?



Here is a verse from a song entitled 'Build your kingdom here' by Rend Collective... how is this verse reflected in the image and in today's Bible story?

Build your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here
We pray

- Where do we see 'weeds' and 'wheat' growing together in the world and in our local community?
- How might God be calling each of us to play our part as his stewards on earth?

Song: Brother, Sister, let me service you

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yICYFdeN_ME

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

2. 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.

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

4. 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.

5. 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.

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

O Lord, Hear Our Prayers *Here are a few suggested topics for you to pray about. If you have specific prayers you would like included in future weeks then do send them to Linda and she will add them in*

We pray for...

Our world: Continuing to suffer through the effects of the Coronavirus; particularly those countries like India and Pakistan where the healthcare systems are under increasing strain...for leadership that expresses compassion and wisdom in their handling of the situation
For an end to systemic racial injustice, for peaceful, safe protests and a more just world to emerge where people have equal opportunities and treatment.

Our communities: For all those living in our parish. For our local businesses that are reopening, to be able to operate safely for both their staff and customers. For those who continue to be fearful of the effects of the relaxation of restrictions. For all who continue to support those who are isolated and alone in our community. For our local police and authorities who continue to operate on the frontline

Our church: For all involved in organising the reopening of our church for worship, for the shape that will take and how best they can use their resources so that God can be known in all that they offer. For all of the members of our church family who have supported their friends and neighbour. For generous giving to enable our work to continue and flourish.

For the sick and the dying: for all who are unwell at this time, for those suffering from long-term illness and worried about their treatments, for all who are caring for family at home. For all those for whom this time is affecting their mental health.

For those who have died; may they rest in peace and rise in glory;
for the sadness of those who mourn and for those who are unable to attend funerals to say their farewells because of the restrictions in place. For all whose world has changed immeasurably following the death of a loved one.

Thanksgiving: For the gift of faith. For our family and friends and those who will be able to come together for the first time in months. For the beauty of creation that gives us joy and hope that God cares for us all.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

We say the 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.

Song: Shine, Jesus Shine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCqhgEMixlk>

1) Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me

*Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light*

2) Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me

3) As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me,

Sending Out 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.

The Peace

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen