

OPENING PRAYERS AND HOLY COMMUNION ARE AVAILABLE AS A VIDEO HERE

PART 1 – OPENING PRAYERS

WELCOME

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

SENTENCE

You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Psalm 86.15

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us pray.
Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it:
You shall love your neighbour as yourself. Matthew 22.37–40, Mark 12.30–31

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

In penitence and faith,
let us confess our sins to Almighty God:

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Saving God,
in Jesus Christ you opened for us a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts
and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PLEASE PAUSE THE VIDEO

PART 2 — AN ALL AGE VIDEO PART 2 OF *WHERE IS GOD?* FOCUSING ON FAMILY AND
DOWNLOADABLE MATERIAL FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN [HERE](#)

PART 3 — LOOK UP AND READ THROUGH THE READINGS, LISTEN TO THE [SERMON PODCAST](#) (READ
ALONG IF YOU WISH) BY REV JENNIE SAVAGE, AND PRAY THE INTERCESSIONS, TODAY BY PAM
TAYLOR.

READINGS

Romans 8:18-28

Psalm 86:11-17

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

SERMON BY REV JENNIE SAVAGE

Available to listen online and/or download – access via Pentecost 2020 link and notice also a reasonable library of past sermons for you to listen to as you exercise or meditate...

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Let us pray:

Lord, we thank you for the gift of your Word;

open our hearts and our minds to your Spirit as we reflect and pray. Amen.

I knew very little about plants until after I met my husband.

One day we were passing a field covered with these pretty little purple flowers.

"What is that pretty ground cover?" I asked him.

"It has two names," he replied, "For those who like it, it's called Salvation Jane. For those who hate it, it's called Patterson's Curse."

This plant seems to be something of a Dr Jekyll and a Mr Hyde. As Salvation Jane, the plant is good for making honey and binding eroding soil; as Patterson's Curse it poisons, not kills, but poisons sheep and cows causing their meat to be rancid as well as bad wool on the sheep.

"So is it a weed or not?" I demanded of Sav.

"My philosophy is that a weed is something you don't like," he said.

This is the first of three parables about how the kingdom of heaven grows (the other two being about the mustard seed and the yeast).

The kingdom of heaven is like this field which has both wheat *and* weeds. This field of wheat *and* weeds is like the kingdom of heaven. This is what it is like when God is at work.

As was Jesus' habit to use the common everyday situations as illustrations, there was a poisonous weed known as darnel which some would use as revenge by planting it among the wheat of their enemy's field.

Darnel is not only related to, but is also virtually indistinguishable from wheat until the ears of grain form, only then would the weeds become apparent. By then, the wheat and darnel's roots would be so entwined that pulling up one would be likely to drag the other with it. Such was this use of darnel that in Roman law, this sabotage was a punishable offense.

But this is not a lesson about horticulture, but an illustration about life, about the kingdom of heaven, about evil and about the triumph of good, about people.

I have always liked to think of myself as a child of the kingdom, so does that mean I am a nice stalk of wheat whilst others not of my creed are all weeds? Or does it mean there are good people and bad people? Probably true in one perspective. But there is something about the roots of the weeds that are so tightly entwined with the roots of the wheat. It is not so easy to separate them.

Weakness is not something we overly brag about.

We tend to be dazzled, or like to dazzle with shows of great gifts and talents.

I wonder if we may sometimes not discern between the wheat and the weed, because they are not always distinguishable.

For example, a strength has its shadow side, a desire for quality can be turned into a tyranny of perfectionism; a caring person can be afraid to face conflict; or the shadow side of decisiveness is impatience.

I remember this plant that grew in our back yard called Morning Glory. It is a climber with the most beautiful purplish-blue flower that just spreads out like a pretty plate, gorgeous in Melbourne but in the hinterland of the Sunshine Coast, it is a weed that is out of control, it drapes over the forest in huge canopies and looks eerie, and interestingly it doesn't flower there.

We have weeds in our lives, we know that.

We do not assume that we cannot be untouched, seduced or infiltrated by the roots of weeds.

We confess every week of their presence in our lives.

As Socrates said, *an unexamined life is not worth living*; and Santayana takes it further saying: *those who ignore the past are condemned to repeat its mistakes*.

Christian spirituality commends this examining and taking it to the Lord in confession.

What Christian spirituality does not condone, is the judging of others. In this parable Jesus says leave it to God, all will be clear under God's eye at harvest time. For now, we are to let, or permit – which has the connotation of grace – the weeds grow amidst the wheat.

We are not to engage in violent weeding for we would also destroy the wheat in our ignorance.

The Christian way is confession, forgiveness and reconciliation

In looking at this parable on the personal level,

I do not mean to reduce weeds to simply human foibles.

Jesus' interpretation of the parable reveals a serious judgement at the end of it all.

There will be a separation of weed and wheat.

Ultimately all causes of sin and all evildoers will be taken out of the kingdom.

So the parable is a warning to pay attention to the weeds.

The causing of others to stumble is a particularly grievous sin in Matthew.

Evil and those who cause others to stumble and any intentional manipulation is viewed as abhorrent. Paying attention to our weeds is not just for our own personal growth, but for the kingdom as a whole. As part of the kingdom, we want our churches to be a safe place, a good place that encourages people rather than being a stumbling block.

We are easily cushioned from evil in our suburban lifestyle.

The Franciscan Richard Rohr writes: "In our cerebral theology we're not so sure there is a devil. But we go out and build the atom bombs."

C.S. Lewis observed that the devil has his greatest success in convincing us that he does not exist. But at the same time, we should note that not much attention is paid to 'the enemy' who sowed the weeds. No specific power is attributed to this enemy or the enemy's followers. They just are, and will be dealt with in time.

In this parable Jesus tells us about a kingdom, but it is not escapism. There is wheat and there are weeds.

Let anyone with ears listen!

Let us pray:

God our ruler and guide,

when we come to the place where the road divides,

keep us true to the way of Christ,

alive to present opportunities,

and confident of eternal life. Amen. (ANZPB)

INTERCESSIONS BY PAM TAYLOR

Almighty God, creator of all things, we earnestly pray for our world which continues to come to terms with confronting issues including famine, floods, conflicts and especially disease so prevalent at the moment. We give grateful thanks for residing in Australia where, compared to other nations, we are fortunate that our leaders are continuing to work together, ensuring the health and safety of us all. May we never take for granted the beauty of our natural surroundings which we continue to enjoy. With time being such a valuable and current commodity, help us to reflect upon your reassuring presence - a God who loves, guides and comforts us regardless of the situation at hand.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Heavenly Father we pray for the Church and its peoples around the world. When the church buildings and places of worship are closed for safety reasons, we know that "the Church" is still alive and working harder than ever. We especially pray for all clergy who continue to seek and assist their parishioners through various means under these difficult circumstances. We pray for our team at Mount Eliza - for Jennie, the wardens and Parish Councillors and for the pastoral care team all assisting Jennie to ease her load. Lord, we pray particularly for those who live alone and who may be struggling to cope. A simple act of kindness - a phone call, a card or note, may make such a difference to their wellbeing. We continue to marvel at modern technology which enables us to communicate with our friends, families and loved ones.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Loving Lord, we commend the wonderful work of volunteers around the world, and especially here in Australia, who are currently working to feed the hungry, cloth the poor and provide essential daily items needed during such dire circumstances. As often happens, people can and do show the very best qualities in desperate times - true disciples of Christ.

We continue to praise the work of thousands of medical staff, police, fire and army personnel who are currently assisting with our lock-down. We pray that those minority people who continue to ignore the simple rules may be brought to account for their selfish acts.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Gracious Lord, we ask for your blessings upon those who are in need and seek your healing hands. We remember at this time the friends and families of Constance Spencer, particularly her Chapel friends and the friends and family of Len Trowse, a cheerful and loving man - a true gentleman. We especially remember Lorraine Pigdon whose anniversary falls on July 15 - a wonderful member of our Mount Eliza Caritas group for many years - so sadly missed. We remember Alex and his loving family in our prayers

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Heavenly Father now, more than ever, we need to turn to you during these concerning times. May we reflect upon your reassuring presence - a God and Father who wants the best for us, no matter how impossible the way may seem. You are always at our side.

Thanks be to God.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray:

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.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

PLEASE RESUME THE VIDEO FOR HOLY COMMUNION

GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts;
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,
making us in your own image.
We praise you for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by his death on the cross and rising to new life
offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.
Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying,

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

And now we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine; may we who receive them, as Jesus said,
share his body and his blood.
On the night he was betrayed, he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread and gave it

to his friends, and said,
'Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'
After supper he took the cup and gave you thanks.
He shared the cup with them and said,
'This is my blood poured out so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ and to remember all he has done for us:
Fill us with your Spirit that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say, working for justice and
bringing your peace to this world that you have made.
Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing and honour and glory and power,
are yours forever and ever. Amen

THE BREAKING AND SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Living God,
in this holy meal you fill us with new hope.
May the power of your love,
which we have known in word and sacrament,
continue your saving work among us,
give us courage for our pilgrimage,
and bring us to the joys you promise.

Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH based on Ephesians 3

Let us declare our faith in God:

We believe in God, the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.
Based on Ephesians 3. New Patterns of Worship (CofE) p166**

BLESSING

**The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.**

DISMISSAL

**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.¹**

¹ Liturgy from From A Prayer Book for Australia Copyright © Broughton Publishing 1995