

Welcome to a short time of prayer and reflection for the sixth Sunday after Trinity. Let us be still and recognise we are in the presence of God: Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen

The Lord be with you

Today we have another parable about seeds and growth: the parable of the weeds and the wheat. It is a reminder in a world of quick judgements and instant responses that there is time for change and growth and transformation in each of our lives, and that God has great patience with the Creation that is cherished and held in being by God's redeeming love.

As we prepare to reflect on the gospel let us take a moment to look back over the last week, to notice when we have mirrored God's patience with ourselves and others, and those times when we have been quick in judgement and have stifled God's love for each of us and for others.

We bring those times of unloving judgement to God in confession:

When we have turned away from you and ignored your will for our lives, Lord have mercy.

When we have behaved just as we wished, without thinking of you, Christ have mercy.

When we have failed you by what we do and say, Lord have mercy.

May the God of love and power, forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen

Let us pray:

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same: through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever, Amen.

We listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52  
The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon : see additional attachment

Let us pray:

Eternal God, we pray for our brothers and sisters in faith across the world: that we may be a people of perseverance and resilience, a people of reconciliation and hope, and a people who bring forth a plentiful harvest of love, joy and peace.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Lord of all Creation, we pray for our world at this time of change and uncertainty, anxiety and anticipation. May leaders make decisions with the long term wellbeing of people and planet in view, and may patience, mutual concern and a yearning for the common good transform our common life.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Loving Lord, we ask you blessing on those with whom we share our lives. We pray for our families, friends and neighbours, giving thanks for their place in our lives. We pray especially for our children and young people as they come to the end of very strange school years, that they may find the reassurance and security they need at this time

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Loving Lord, We bring to you in our hearts all who we know to be suffering at this time: through illness, injury or any kind of distress. Help them to have a sense of your presence with them. Bring

them wholeness of body, mind and spirit, and the healing that is according to God's will,

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Eternal God, we commend to your everlasting love all who have died: those we love and see no longer, those who have died recently and those whose anniversary of death falls around now.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We gather all these intercessions in the prayer Jesus gave us:

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be 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.

And we pray for God's 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