



Sunday July 19th ~ Trinity 6

Welcome to Praying Together but
Separately

WELCOME

HYMN: GOD HAS SPOKEN (ST MF)

INTRODUCTION

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

I am in the presence of the Living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (THE COLLECT)

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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 for ever. Amen.

CONFESSION and absolution

St Paul says 'Be imitators of God; love as Christ loved; Do not grieve the Holy Spirit;

Put away all anger and bitterness,
All slander and malice.'

So let us confess our sins to God, who forgives us in Christ.

In a dark and disfigured world
We have not held out the light of life:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

In a hungry and despairing world
We have failed to share our bread:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

In a cold and loveless world
We have kept the love of God to ourselves:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The absolution: May the God of love bring us back to himself, Forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love In Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymn The kingdom of God (ST M F)

REFLECTION

Ask God to speak to you through the passage that you are about to read.

BIBLE READINGS:

ROMANS: 8:12-25 (Read by Rebecca Caird)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh – for if you live according to the flesh, you

will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

GOSPEL Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43 (Read by Margaret from Westoning)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord according to Matthew

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the

wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

"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?' 'An enemy did this,' he replied.

"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. 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.'"

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."

He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. 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, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

"As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. 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. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

HYMN Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine (Nicholas)

Sermon by Nigel

(Reflection: Read the passage and prayerfully think about what Christ has said to you.

God gently kneels down in our hearts today and at the end of time pulls the weeds out very gently, shaking the earth loose so as not to lose anything good and so as not to disturb the growing wheat.

How does this parable help you understand your own heart?)

HYMN There's a hope (ST M F solo)

OUR PRAYERS

God of the Harvest, grant me and your whole church throughout your world the hearts and lives that are growing a harvest of wheat and not weeds.

Kindly God, gently kneel down in our heart today and at the end of time pull the weeds out gently, shaking the earth loose so that nothing that is good and of you is lost.

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

Grant to me God, and to all your people, the wisdom and the will through your great love of me to be the wheat, the people of your Kingdom and not of the weeds, this day and always.

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

Father I pray for all who are caught up in corruption and decay.

Forgive us where we destroy and mar your world through greed.

I pray for areas where forests are being destroyed, the soil eroded, the water polluted.

Guide by your Spirit all who groan for a better world, all who seek to restore and renew the earth. *(prayer by David Adams)*

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Healing Christ, I pray for the sick, the weary and those who are troubled, praying particularly for all those who are affected in different ways by the coronavirus:

those tired through work, those who have lost work, those who are physically ill,

those who are struggling mentally,

those who are lost and have little hope.

I name those I know in my heart now to you.

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

Lord of the Harvest, your saints and angels in heaven and on earth sing your praise echoing throughout the universe the sound of your love, welcome and embrace in your kingdom all who have died and yet remain in our hearts.

Bless them as you bless me as I speak their names to you in my heart.

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

Holy Spirit travel with me this day and in the days of this week in ways I can understand so that I can travel in your footsteps.

Amen

A PRAYER CONCERNING THE CORONAVIRUS

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
in their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CHORUS

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself
wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.
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.

Blessing

HYMN: Here I am Lord (Nicholas to play)