

Morning Prayer for Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 11)

From *A New Zealand Prayer Book*

July 19, 2020

Morning Worship

Preparation

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

Great is the Lord and worthy of all praise.

*Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour, power and might,
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.*

Great and Wonderful

Great and wonderful are your deeds

*1 O Lord God the almighty:
just and true are your ways
O Sovereign of the nations.*

*2 Who shall not revere and praise your name O Lord?
for you alone are holy.*

*3 All nations shall come and worship in your presence:
for your just dealings have been revealed.*

*To the One who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb:
4 be blessing and honour, glory and might
for ever and ever. Amen.*

Revelation 15:3b-4; 5:13

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
let us praise and worship God who has called us together.
Let us celebrate God's majesty,
and delight in the wonder of God's love.
Together we shall confess our sins
and receive assurance that we are forgiven.

As the scriptures are read,
we can allow God's word to speak to us,
and ponder its meaning for our lives.

In our prayers, we give thanks for God's goodness,
we pray for others as well as for ourselves,
and we offer our lives anew in Christ's service.

All this we do,
because we believe in the presence among us
of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and in the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.

The minister says

Hear these words of scripture.

Love one another,
for love is of God,
and whoever loves is born of God and knows God.
Spirit of God, search our hearts.

Let us be silent,
remember our need for God's forgiveness.

Silence

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Almighty and merciful God,
we have sinned against you,
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with all our heart.
We have not loved others
as our Saviour Christ loves us.
We are truly sorry.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.*

Almighty God, who pardons all who truly repent,
forgive your sins, strengthen you by the Holy Spirit,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.

Hymn 601

O day of God, draw nigh

1. O day of God, draw nigh
in beauty and in power;
come with thy timeless judgment now
to match our present hour.

2. Bring to our troubled minds,
uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast faith,
calm of a call obeyed.

3. Bring justice to our land,
that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come
foundations that endure.

4. Bring to our world of strife
thy sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more,
and desolation cease.

5. O day of God, draw nigh
as at creation's birth;
let there be light again,
and set thy judgments on the earth.

The Ministry of the Word

O come, let us sing to the Lord,
let us rejoice in the rock of our salvation.

We sing to you, O God, and bless your name;
and tell of your salvation from day to day.

We proclaim your glory to the nations,
your praise to the ends of the earth.

Psalm 86:11-17

11 Teach me your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in your truth; *
knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.

12 I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, *
and glorify your Name for evermore.

13 For great is your love toward me; *
you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.

14 The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a band of violent men seeks my life; *
they have not set you before their eyes.

15 But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *
give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.

17 Show me a sign of your favor,
because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

¹ The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases:
God's mercies never come to an end;

² They are new every morning:
your faithfulness O Lord is great.

³ You are all that I have:
and therefore I will wait for you.

⁴ You O Lord are good to those who wait for you:
to all those who seek you.

⁵ It is good to wait in patience:
for the salvation of the Lord.

Lamentations 3:22-26

Glory to the Father and to the Son:
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now:
and shall be forever. Amen.

Romans 8:12-25

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 labor 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 302

Father, we thank thee who hast planted

1 Father, we thank Thee who hast planted
Thy holy Name within our hearts.
Knowledge and faith and life immortal
Jesus Thy Son to us imparts.
Thou, Lord, didst make all for Thy pleasure,
didst give us food for all our days,
giving in Christ the Bread eternal;
Thine is the power, be Thine the praise.

2 Watch o'er Thy church, O Lord, in mercy,
save it from evil, guard it still.
Perfect it in Thy love, unite it,
cleansed and conformed unto Thy will.
As grain, once scattered on the hillsides,
was in this broken bread made one,
so from all lands Thy church be gathered
into Thy kingdom by Thy Son.

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the

righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

I find it interesting that the story today is called the parable of the weeds of the field. Why name it after the weeds and not the good seed? Since the question is coming from the disciples, why are they concentrating on the weeds and not the good seed? When we hear this story what do we hear? Is it a story about the weeds or is it a story about the good seeds. What are we – the weeds or the good seed?

As with most of Jesus’ parables there are many facets to the story. It seems so simple to just compare weeds and good seeds but in truth some weeds are beneficial and some good seed never bear fruit. And when we compare ourselves to weeds and good seeds, we see that there are aspects of both within us. Nothing has made this as clear as the situations we find ourselves in right now.

We are facing a worldwide pandemic which is making people of all ages sick and causing the deaths of many. Yet our response and the response of our leaders has been confusing. Do we all wear masks, wash our hands, and social distance to mitigate the effects of the virus or do we go back to normal life hugging friends, having parties with no social distancing, attending sports events in crowded arenas, etc. to bring economies in trouble back from the brink? These are not easy questions and we each have to answer them in a way that we can live with ourselves and our neighbors. What does God want us to do?

For me, the answer is to do what I can to mitigate the effects of the virus by wearing a mask in public and social distancing. But I have a job. I am still getting paid. I can buy food. I have a roof over my head. What about those who are not as fortunate as I am? Yes, I

help where I can. I have paid for food for someone who is hungry. I have paid for a night in a motel for someone who needs shelter. I have purchased clothes for someone in need of warmth. I can do a little and it means a lot to those I do help. But I can’t do it for everyone who is in need. If I tried then I would be the one who is hungry, needs shelter, or needs warmth and unable to help anyone else.

I am confused and I am troubled. I don’t have the answers. What I plan to do is continue to do what I can to mitigate the effects of Covid-19 as much as I can so that I do not spread the virus to my neighbor. I will order from local restaurants and pick up my meals as safely as possible to keep their workers working. I will purchase what I need from local stores to keep them open and their staff working. I will do what I can to make a difference. That is what God is calling me to do. Let us all do our part.

The Apostle’s Creed

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,*

*the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen. The Lord be with you.
The Lord bless you.*

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we 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.*

Make your ways known upon earth, O God,
your saving power among all peoples.

Renew your Church in holiness,
and help us to serve you with joy.

Guide the leaders of this and every nation,
that justice may prevail throughout the world.

Let not the needy, O God, be forgotten,
nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Make us instruments of your peace,
and let your glory be over all the earth.

A Collect of the Day

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Collect for Morning

Holy and everliving God,
by your power we are created
and by your love we are redeemed;
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,
that we may give ourselves to your service,
and live each day in love to one another and to you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

*In darkness and in light,
in trouble and in joy,
help us, heavenly Father,
to trust your love,
to serve your purpose,
and to praise your name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

FOR THOSE WHO GOVERN

Eternal God, Fount of wisdom;
we ask you to bless the representatives we have elected;
grant that through their discussions and decisions
we may solve our problems effectively,
enhance the well-being of our nation,
and achieve together a fairer and more united society.

FOR THE JUDICIARY AND POLICE

God of truth and justice;
we ask you to help the men and women
who administer and police our laws;
grant them insight, courage and compassion,
protect them from corruption and arrogance
and grant that we, whom they seek to serve,
may give them the support and affection they need;
so may our people be strengthened more and more in respect and
concern for one another.

FOR THE ARMED FORCES

God our stronghold and defence;
we commend to you those whose task it is
to defend us in danger;
inspire them in war to serve our country well;
in peace, hold them ready and alert.
In their lives may they bring honour to our country's name.

FOR TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS

God the source of all our inspiration,
help us to understand ourselves, our world and you;
and grant to those who teach us and our children
respect for others' inventiveness and questioning,
and for themselves commitment to truth.

FOR THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Draw your Church together, O God,
into one great company of disciples,
together following our Lord Jesus Christ
into every walk of life,
together serving him in his mission to the world,
and together witnessing to his love
on every continent and island.

FOR PEACE

O God,
it is your will to hold both heaven and earth
in a single peace.
Let the design of your great love
shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows,
and give peace to your Church,
peace among nations,
peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts.

Hymn

Lord of all hopefulness

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*The almighty and merciful God bless us
and keep us now and for ever. Amen.*

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.