




Live your faith 19-25 July 2020

Read, pray, reflect and live your faith this week

 This week's Bible readings Isaiah 44.6-8 · Psalm 86.11-17 · Romans 8.12-25 · Matthew 13.24-30,36-43

A world of wheat and weeds

Notes on the Bible readings

- Jesus tells a parable about a field of wheat that also contains weeds – and specifically, a weed that looks much like the wheat. The servants ask their master if they should pull up the weeds, but the master says the two must grow together. Until both are fully grown it is hard to identify the weeds from the wheat. Pulling up the one will almost certainly damage the other.

- These passages all have something to say about the power of God and God's action in the world. But they also all testify to the ongoing presence of evil and suffering. Jesus preaches that the kingdom is near, and Paul says that believers are now children of God, but both describe situations where the kingdom of God coexists with other incompatible elements that still cause 'stumbling'.

- The master's response in the passage is helpful, as it reassures the reader that he knows what is going on and has a solution to bring about a healthy and full harvest. It is a fact of our existence that good exists alongside evil and ongoing temptations, until the end of time. But this reading reminds us that we are not in charge, and that we are called to live together.

Wheat around the world

If you have access to the internet, look up stories on Tearfund's website (www.tearfund.org) outlining how God is at work in local churches throughout the world. Could anything you've read inspire you or your local church? Could you take any specific action?

FREE [worship at home](#) resources, including up-to-the-minute reflection on this week's Bible reading, available at: www.rootsontheweb.com

Questions for reflection

- ▶ What do you see in this image?
- ▶ Where do you see 'weeds' and 'wheat' growing together in the world?
- ▶ How might God be calling you to cope with the tensions this causes?



A prayer for others

Lord God, we pray for our world and its people. So many different cultures, colours, languages – but we are all your children, all special in our own right. Whatever our gender, race, colour or creed, we all belong to you.

We pray that we might learn to live in harmony with each other, to recognise that even someone halfway around the world is still our neighbour in your sight. Far or near, we all belong to you.

With today's technology we have access to news from afar, almost before it happens. Help us not to become blasé about the situations we see, but to pray and care faithfully for all concerned. In war or peace, we all belong to you.

We pray for those near and dear to us: protect them, wrap them in your loving arms, and in sorrow and in joy, be with them. Near or far, we all belong to you.

*We all belong to you and need your love.
Amen.*

A personal prayer

*The field is the world.
Lord, I live in a tiny patch of your world
but it is still my field to serve you.
I pray that I will give my time and gifts
to you and yours in whatever way I can.
Your kingdom come, O Lord.
Amen.*

Live your faith

Offer to do some weeding in a friend's/elderly neighbour's/the church's garden (NB within current social distancing guidelines). Make each weed you pull up part of your prayer that God will help you embrace the wheat in your life, and reject weeds.



Saturday 8th August from 12 noon.

It has been such a long time since we have come together as a Church family. We thought it might be fun to hold a picnic at the Countryside centre (adjacent to the BBQ area where we have met in the past). In order to comply with regulations we have to limit the number to 30 people and

respect social distancing between households. Please bring your own chairs, rugs, picnics and rinks (the café is scheduled to be open serving for outdoor consumption only through a hatch). Penny will need to keep a check on numbers so please call her on the number below if you intend to come, she will then let you know of any updates and arrangements.



It has been a long slog since March and we have all felt the lasting effects of our enforced lockdown, and the sadness some of us have experienced with illness and loss. I just

wanted to say "thank you" to everyone who has helped to keep things (and me) going over these last weeks.

Special thanks to those who have contributed to our online worship through preaching, reading and leading intercessions, and thank you to all who are contributing financially to the on-going work of the Church in this place. You are all superstars! Blessings Rob.

Online Ignatian Retreat

New to our YouTube channel is the beginning of a four-week Ignatian retreat based on the First Spiritual exercises of Ignatius Loyola. Each video is about 10-15 minutes long, theme based and contains some prayer, space for reflection and spiritual direction.

Search for "Holy Trinity & St Matthew's Church Ronkswood" on YouTube. DVD copies will be available soon. I hope you find it helpful.

Daily Readings for week commencing 20 th July 2020		
Monday	1 Samuel 5	Luke 20:41-21:4
Tuesday	1 Samuel 6:1-16	Luke 21: 5-19
Wednesday	1 Samuel 16: 14-end	Luke 8: 1-3
Thursday	1 Samuel 8	Luke 21: 29-end
Friday	1 Samuel 9: 1-14	Luke 22: 1-13
Saturday	2 Kings 1: 9-15	Luke 9: 46-56 <i>James the Apostle</i>

Pray for those in need...Sally, Katie-Louise, Pam, Sue, Bryn, Evelyn, Shane, Pat, Heather, Dorothy Lily, Cathy and Joyce.
Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...Kitty, Philip and Cyril.