

WIMBORNE MINSTER
READINGS AND PRAYERS FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
19 JULY 2020

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 our Lord. **Amen.**

Isaiah 44: 6 – 8 *(read by Peter Gibson)*

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. (NRSV)

Romans 8: 12 – 25 *(read by Peter Gibson)*

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. (NRSV)

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 Jesus 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!' (NRSV)

Prayers (led by Sue Tipping)

Let us pray.

To the words "Lord in your mercy" please reply "Hear our prayer"

We thank you that we can worship together again in the Minster and we thank you for all the people who have worked so hard to make this possible. We are grateful too that we have been able to continue with our worship during the lockdown using modern technology. Thank you for our clergy, organist, choir, church wardens, office staff, vergers and everyone else who has helped to make it work so successfully. We ask you to be with them and to continue to guide them as we move forward together into another phase of our life in the Minster.

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

We thank you for our wonderful world and all the good things we can enjoy, especially at this time of year. We thank you that you have blessed us with warm, sunny days when we can go out and enjoy the beautiful countryside around us. Help us to appreciate all that we have in the natural world and to take care of it in every possible way.

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

We pray for those who are travelling during this holiday time and we thank you that we can go away and visit friends and family again. We ask that you keep us safe in every way as we journey on roads, rail, by sea and by air. We thank you that people can come and visit Wimborne again and we pray for anyone who may be worshipping with us for the first time. May they receive a warm welcome and feel your presence in this very special place.

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

At this time of uncertainty and great change, we pray for our government and all those involved in making decisions about the next steps as the lockdown restrictions are lifted. We pray that you will guide them to make the right decisions for our welfare and for the good of the nation. Help us all to do everything we can to keep ourselves and others safe and well.

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

We pray for all those people who have found the lockdown particularly difficult. We remember the poor, the lonely, the depressed and those who are unable to cope with the pressures of modern life. For some of those people, the isolation and uncertainty of lockdown has made their life almost unbearable. May they feel your love and guidance, helping them to manage and to feel less alone.

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

Finally, we pray for anyone known to us who is sick in mind or body. We remember the dying or recently bereaved and we name them now in the silence of our hearts.....We thank you for all the doctors, nurses, care home workers, support staff and everyone who works tirelessly to help the sick and the dying. Help us to do what we can to support those near to us who are suffering in any way and we ask that you will give them comfort, hope and strength to cope with whatever lies ahead in the next few days and weeks.

Merciful Father **accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our saviour Jesus Christ.**

Amen

Closing Prayer

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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