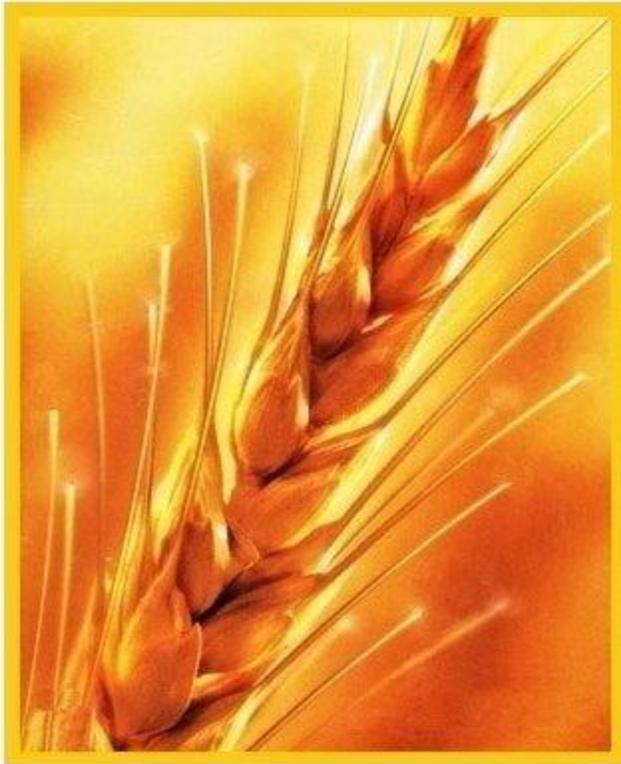


THE PARABLE OF THE



Wheat and Tares

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
July 19, 2020 **10:00am Service**



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE
(302) 378-4446 www.newcov-church.org

The Worship of God

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2020

Welcome, Announcements and Sharing of Our Vision

Lay Leader: Jane Adams

Preparing to Meet God

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Prelude...

ADIAPHORA – which means, in practical usage, “something that’s non-essential” – something you can do perfectly well without, or something that doesn’t matter all that much. It is a very useful term, not only for the large church controversies, but also for the issues that drive folks crazy at the local level. And yet, at least President Trump declared Houses of Worship to be essential! But let’s take a look at the bigger issue of what is truly essential for our worship to be true and faithful to our calling. Pipe organ or electric guitar in worship? *Adiaphora*. Traditional hymns or praise songs? *Adiaphora*. Pews or chairs in the sanctuary? *Adiaphora*. Tie and jacket or sport shirt in worship? *Adiaphora*. It’s not that such issues (or any others) are of no importance. They are. It’s just that they make no REAL difference in determining whether or not a congregation is a true Church of Jesus Christ. I always think of my sins when I am weeding my garden. They grow swiftly in the same way as weeds, and are harder still to get rid of.

- Helena Rutherford Ely, *A Woman’s Hardy Garden*

Call to Worship

L: The church is the Body of Christ working to bring God’s kingdom on earth.

P: ***Some in the church don’t have the vision of what God calls us to BE and DO.***

L: Some may not even be Christians, and we pray that God’s Spirit would work within them, to bring about God’s purposes.

A: ***May God help us be true Christians, so that we can HELP, rather than HINDER the ministry of God’s Church.***

*Hymn of Praise # 551

Come, Ye Thankful People Come

*Come, ye thankful people, come, Raise the song of harvest home:
All is safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide, For our wants to be supplied:
Come to God’s own temple, come, Raise the song of harvest home.*

*All the world is God’s own field, Fruit unto God’s praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we, Wholesome grains and pure may be.*

*For the Lord our God shall come, And shall take the harvest home;
From each field shall in that day, All offenses purge away;
Give the angels charge at last, In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store, In God’s garner evermore.*



(continued)

*Even so, Lord, quickly come, To thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin;
There forever purified, In thy presence to abide;
Come, with all thine angels, come, Raise the glorious harvest home.*

Prayer of Confession

Holy and righteous God, your church is made up of sinners saved by grace. None of us is perfect, and none of us has the right to exclude others. Forgive us for our ambitious judgment which competes with your authority, and cripples the ministry of your church. When we see impurities in the church, help us to be sincere in our faith, regardless of the insincerity of others, and leave any judging and cleansing to you. And now we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and seek your forgiveness.....Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

L: Hear the Good News: Who is in a position to condemn?

P: ***Only Christ, and Christ died for us – rose for us – and reigns in power for us.***

L: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel –

P: ***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!***

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Romans 8: 12-25

Future Glory

So then, 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.

Special Music

God Will Make a Way

Don Moen

Second Lesson

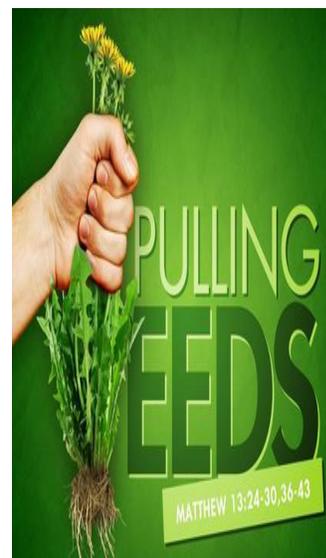
Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

The Parable of Weeds Among the Wheat

He put before them 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!



Sermon

To Weed or Not to Weed - That is the Question!

Responding to the Word

***Hymn # 560**

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

(Sung to the tune of The Church's One Foundation, #442)

*We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand;
God sends the snow in winter, The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine, And soft, refreshing rain.*

*You only are the Maker of all things near and far,
You paint the wayside flower, You light the evening star,
The winds and waves obey you, By you the birds are fed;
Much more to us, your children, you give our daily bread.*

*We thank you, then, Creator, For all things bright and good,
The seedtime and the harvest, Our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer, For all your love imparts.
And what you most would welcome, Our humble, thankful hearts.*

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's Creed (Ecumenical Version)

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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Cares Chorus:

*I cast all my cares upon you. I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.
And anytime I don't know what to do, I cast all my cares upon you.*

The Call to Celebrate Our Gifts

The Invitation *You are invited to place your offering in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.*

Prayer of Dedication: O God, we celebrate the possibilities of the offerings we give to you this day. Use them to accomplish great deeds, going where we cannot go, nurturing in faith and maturing in grace all who hear your Word, and call on your holy name. Amen.

Going Out to Serve God

* Hymn # 714 red book

God of the Fertile Fields
(Same tune as *Come, Thou Almighty King*)

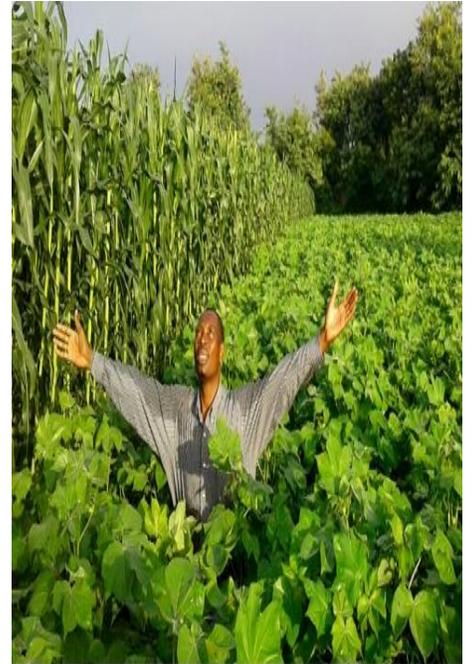
God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:
Forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,
That all in every land be clothed and fed.

*We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you all that you give;
Help us in love to share, teach us like you to care,
For people everywhere, that all may live.*

*As grows the hidden seed, to fruit that serves our need, so your reign
grows.*

*Let all our toil be used, no gift of yours abused,
No humble task refused, your love bestows.*

*God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died to make us one:
We pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.*



* Blessing

L: May the God whom death could not contain,

P: *Who lives to disturb and heal us,*

L: Bless us with the power to go forth and proclaim the gospel in love and acceptance,

P: *Leaving any judgment in God's hands.*

L: And may the blessings of Almighty God...

*Response

He Is Lord

He is Lord, He is Lord!

He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess

That Jesus Christ is Lord.

