

Let us pray for the world

Lord God Almighty, our Creator, teach us to understand more and more profoundly that every human life is sacred, whether it belongs to an unborn infant or to a terminally ill patient, to a handicapped child or to a disabled adult.

Remind us, heavenly Father, that each individual has been made in your image and likeness and has been redeemed by Christ.

Help us to see each other with your eyes, so that we may reverence, preserve and sustain your gift of life in them, and use our own lives more faithfully in your service.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*Basil Hume*

Hymn [StF 436/ H&P 46](#) **What shall I do my God to love**

Blessing

Our Lord Jesus Christ be near thee to defend thee,  
within thee to refresh thee,  
around thee to preserve thee,  
before thee to guide thee,  
behind thee to justify thee,  
above thee to bless thee,  
who liveth and reigneth with the Father and the Holy Ghost,  
God for evermore.

*Source unknown*

All prayers from 'The SPCK book of Christian Prayer' (1995).  
Thoughts on the Bible passage by Rev Jona Sewell.

**Darlington District Worship**  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2020**



Look upon us, O Lord,  
and let all darkness of our souls vanish  
before the beams of thy brightness.  
Fill us with holy love,  
and open to us the treasures of thy wisdom.  
All our desire is known unto thee,  
Therefore, perfect what thou hast begun,  
and what thy Spirit has awakened us to ask in prayer.  
We seek thy face,  
turn thy face unto us and show us thy glory.  
Then our longings will be satisfied,  
and our peace shall be perfect.

*Augustine, 354-430*

Hymn [StF 25/H&P 653](#) **God is here! As we his people**

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

You alone are unutterable,  
from the time you created all things  
that can be spoken of.  
You alone are unknowable,  
from the time you created all things  
that can be known.  
All things cry out about you;  
those which speak,  
and those which cannot speak.

All things honour you;  
those which think,  
and those which cannot think.

For there is one longing, one groaning,  
that all things have for you....

All things pray to you that comprehend  
your plan and offer you a silent hymn.

In you, the One, all things abide, and all things  
endlessly run to you who are the end of all.

*Gregory of Nazianzus, 329-389*

Hymn [StF 455/H&P 63](#) **All my hope on God is founded**

Bible reading: [Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43](#)

### **The Parable of the Weeds; The Parable of the Weeds Explained**

It is a rarity that Jesus explains what he means when he speaks in parables. We don't know why that is but by nature, a parable invites the reader to think about the meaning and parables are interpreted in more than one way. However, the centrepiece of Jesus' teachings is The Kingdom of God.

It is easy to tell the difference between wheat and weeds by looking at them.

What is it about people's lives that makes them wheat and weed?

If we are honest, we could also say there is both wheat and weeds in our lives.

What do we do, or need to do, to allow the Holy Spirit to pull out the weeds from our lives?

What do we do, or need to do, to facilitate the growth of wheat in our lives?

When we turn our attention to The Kingdom of God then what do we do to help the wheat to grow in the world? God's Kingdom is where the wheat is. We see good wheat in things like Foodbanks or through activities in our communities during this pandemic.

What have we noticed about people who move from the 'word' to action?

What is it that you need to do?

Hymn [StF 668/H&P 803](#) **Teach me my God and King**

### Let us confess our sins

Forgive me my sins, O Lord;

forgive me the sins of my youth and the sins of my age,  
the sins of my soul and the sins of my body,

my secret and my whispering sins,

my presumptuous and my crying sins,

the sins I have done to please myself,

and the sins I have done to please others.

Forgive me the sins which I know,

and those sins which I know not;

forgive them, O Lord,

forgive them all of thy great goodness.

*Lancelot Andrewes, 1555-1626*

Let us pray **The Lord's Prayer**