



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

Our Vision: *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

THIS SUNDAY July 19 & BEYOND

Weed among Our Wheat



Where does all this evil come from?

When we look at the present world, we are all tempted to ask this question, like the question the slaves in Jesus' parable asked about the origin of the weeds in the field. They knew their master had planted good wheat seeds. We believe that our Creator has planted a good

world. However, just as in Jesus' time, our present world shows a considerable portion of evil. We believe that we are supposed to have only good thoughts and intentions inside us, but it is not so. There is also evil in our own lives. So, we strive to find a culprit. Could it be the devil? The others? Our genes? God Himself for not halting evil at its very inception?

But in the parable of the wheat and the weed the master was not really interested in naming a culprit or taking revenge. He simply said, "an enemy has done this". And he did not advise to remove the weed either. He warned that by trying to do so, the wheat might be uprooted together with the wheat, so it was better to wait until the harvest time.

We are living in a time when a pandemic has taken over our lives and all are suffering its consequences. Some have died, some have gotten sick, some have lost dear ones, many have lost their jobs and means of sustenance. So, we feel tempted to blame someone for its inception and someone for not containing it soon enough. And we would probably want those responsible punished in some way. Social unrest because of acts of injustice have also taken over our nation and the rest of the world. And we are eager to find and shame historical culprits and even feel guilt and remorse for not pointing the culprits out.

The parable of the wheat and the weed, however, tells us to let the crop grow. The time will come when the good fruit will be reaped and the useless one will be disposed of. By letting the good grow and develop in our lives, even amid evil, we learn to be patient with others' lives, and with our own. We learn to imitate the Creator who makes His sun come out and the rain fall for both the good and the bad, and who is "gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and, and full of kindness and truth."

It is not a matter of becoming complacent with evil. The parable clearly states that God will reap the good fruit and will do away with the disposable part. We need to recognize the evil in the world and in our own personal and communal lives. But, as Paul says in his letter to the Romans, we must have patience and hope that we and the whole of creation will be redeemed. There is a place for repentance and forgiveness in the process. A place for graceful transformation and redemption. Living our lives in a world where good and evil are intertwined is painful. There is no clear white and black most of the time, and we must endure the suffering while we strive to make the good in our lives grow and yield the good fruits of life. But it is precisely this patient and hopeful process that makes us grow in a spiritual sense. As Paul states, "the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us".

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 Psalm 86:11-17 Romans 8:18-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

CALENDAR

Note: All worship services and meetings will be Zoom meetings. Visit our web site for the Zoom link (see below).

SUNDAY: The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:00am Service

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

TUESDAY Noon Service

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

FRIDAY In Dialogue with Scripture at noon

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

SUNDAY The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00am Service

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org