



Weeds Among the Wheat

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Sunday
Virtual Worship

SUNDAY VIRTUAL WORSHIP

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EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Prayer"

Robert Schumann

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 86:11-13, 15)

Leader: Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth;

People: give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

Leader: I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,

People: and I will glorify your name forever.

Leader: For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

People: You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

*HYMN 483

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

PRAYER of the DAY (In unison)

Eternal God, Author of our life and End of our pilgrimage: Guide us by your Word and Spirit amid all perils and temptations, that we may not wander from your way, nor stumble in the darkness; but may finish our course in safety, and come to our eternal rest in you; through the grace and merit of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CALL to CONFESSION

Sisters and brothers, all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. We did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but we have received a spirit of adoption. Let us then confess our sin with the freedom of children who know just how deeply they are loved.

PRAYER of CONFESSION (In unison)

Merciful God, your creatures cry—creation groans—but we turn away; we surround ourselves with noise. We are quick to excuse ourselves from responsibility: we are young; we are old; we are tired; we are busy. It is hard to imagine that we might make a difference. Life-giving God, wash us clean. Restore our imaginations and our hearts. Let your courage and compassion flow through our veins until we love with abandon, and our hands reach out in blessing. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. Amen.

SINGING 572

"Lord, Have Mercy upon Us"

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

For as far as the East is from the West, so far he removes our sin from us. Friends, hear the good news of salvation: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

***SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST**

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION (In unison)

Holy and ever-living God, who loves with a father's tenderness and a mother's zeal, move now in our hearts. Breathe through the words we hear, the songs we share, and the burdens we carry until we discover our purpose in your liberating love, for we long to join creation's praise and to shine with the mercy of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 28:10-19 and Matthew 13:24-30, 35-43

SERMON *"A Stairway to Heaven in the Weedy Wheat Fields"* Rev. Myles Thompson

AFFIRMATION of FAITH (from Romans 8)

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN 551**

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

INVITATION to OFFERING

God has blessed us richly, that we might in turn be blessing to the world, carrying his grace forward. Let us then give with grateful hearts to the work of God's kingdom, here and yet coming.

(Those joining us online may use our online giving platform at hocpc.org/give)

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** *"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below.

Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER of DEDICATION**

God of mystery and grace, you have met us and blessed us with such abundant promise. In gratitude we offer what we carry in our hearts and in our pockets. As we bring these worn and freighted offerings, we pray that you would use us, for we come in the name of Jesus and by the movement of your Spirit in this place. Amen.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***HYMN 426**

"Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

***SONG of SENDING**

*God be with you til we meet again,
Loving councils guide uphold you
with the Shepherd's care enfold you.
God be with you til we meet again.
Til we meet, til we meet, til we meet at Jesus' feet
Til we meet, til we meet, til we meet
God be with you til we meet again.*

POSTLUDE

"Marche Romaine"

Charles Gounod



Genesis 28:10-19

¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹² And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And the Lord stood beside him and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, ¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” ¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” ¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” ¹⁸ So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.



1. Gen. 28, 10—22.

Matthew 13:24-30, 35-43

²⁴ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ 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?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ 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.’ ”

³⁵ This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: “I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden since the foundation.” ³⁶ 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.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

