

07-23-23 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Each of us is some mixture of wheat and weed, of holy and unholy, of potentially fruitful and potentially destructive.”

- Gary Peluso-Verdend

“As children of God, we can easily become discouraged by all the evil that surrounds and pervades our lives...When the weeds of sinfulness seem to choke and entangle our lives, by God’s grace, we can persevere and shine like the sun.”

- Ira Stan Campbell



Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Questions for Reflection —

- What mixture of wheat and weeds do you perceive in society? Within the church as an institution? How can we discern the difference between what is wheat and what is weed? What difficult and perhaps uncomfortable realities about the weeds do we need to face as a congregation, as a denomination, as a society? What does it look like for us to cultivate and live according to the values of God’s kin-dom? How can we as a congregation become an embodied expression of Christ’s love, radical welcome, healing, and reconciliation?

- How/when have you experienced the presence of both weeds and wheat within the field that is your heart and your interior life? What do you need in order to acknowledge and confront the mixture of wheat and weeds presently within you? What is it that chokes and entangles your spiritual life? What habits, practices, and choices will help you to cultivate your potential to engage in acts of love, justice, mercy, kindness? How might you sow good seed among family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers/classmates?

- What does it look like for you to “shine like the sun”? How do your actions and words reflect what is holy and Godly back to the world? What unique light is yours that God is calling you to shine forth in your daily encounters? What does it mean for us as a congregation to “shine like the sun”? How can we share the light of Christ in a world filled with so much darkness?

Daily Household Prayer

Merciful God, we confess that we are impatient with your timing. We want immediate judgment on the sins of others, though not on our own. The time of our own suffering seems endless, but the duration of deprivation for others we can shrug off. We want instant recognition of our achievements, but are jealous of the honors afforded others. Forgive the pride that proposes that we know better than you do what should be done and when, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, who did your will. Amen.