

Sebastopol United Methodist Church  
Sunday, July 19, 2020 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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Order of Worship, including Scripture

*Seasonal Theme:*

The teaching and ministry of Jesus the Christ.

*Theme for the day:*

There is a force which works against God. Still we ought not judge, but exercise patience and take the gospel out to the world.

*Call to worship:*

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

Pastor: We surely wait with hope for God's promises.

People: **We wait with patience, for God's time is a mystery.**

Pastor: Come and worship.

Unison: **We will wait upon the Lord together.**

*Centering & Prayer of Illumination:*

*(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

Holy Trinity, as we are in your presence we pray that you move into our hearts, and breathe through the words we are about to hear, until we discover our purpose in your liberating love. We pray in honor of our Redeemer forever.  
Amen.

*Readings from Scripture:*     **Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43**             **Romans 8:12-25**

*[texts of Scripture follow the service, beginning on page 2]*

*Message:*     **THE HOLY SPIRIT RULES!**

*Pastoral Prayer*

*With thanksgiving for God's gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor for God's work in the world. Thank you for continuing to send your offerings and pledges by mail.*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:*

*(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

God of mystery and grace, you have met us and blessed us with such abundant promise. In gratitude we offer ourselves and what we give from our hearts, to be used as you wish for the glory of your mission on earth in Jesus, your Son, the Greatest Giver. Amen.

*Blessing and Benediction:*

Stay firm in love, grace and mercy. God has given his promise.  
Be joyful and love one another.

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Scripture Readings – July 19, 2020

*first reading -- MATTHEW 13:24-30; 36-43*

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.'"

*(reading continues on next page)*

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!

*second reading* – **ROMANS 8:12-25**

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.

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*Thank you for worshipping with us today.*