

## TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520 717-569-1632

Website: www.trinityeastpete.org E-Mail:secretary@trinityeastpete.org
The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor
The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Carolyne Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission
Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director
Mrs. Christine Oetama, Organist
Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist
Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director

# Celebrating 175 Years: Honoring Our Heritage, Moving Forward in Faith!

# EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 7:45 A.M. SERVICE

**Today's Theme:** It is an age-old question: Why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day when all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

Welcome all visitors! We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us in the praise and worship of God. Please sign our guest book in the narthex. If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to Pastor Rankin.

Welcome to the Eucharist! All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion. Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.

**Prayer As You Enter:** Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

# **CALL TO WORSHIP**

### AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We cannot escape from God's spirit. There is nowhere to flee from God's presence.

Darkness is as light to our God. God illuminates the way before us.

In the Acts of the Apostles we read that as the church was gathered, often in the homes of believers, Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and community, to the breaking of bread, and to prayers.

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, we gather at your table to know you in the breaking of the bread.

All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

# **CONFESSION OF SINS**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus said: You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, but we fear the Spirit's power.

Let us confess our slowness to embrace the new life of the Spirit.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

#### SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

#### CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

We confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy. Amen.

#### **KYRIE**

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear now the comforting assurance of the grace of God, promised in the Gospel to all that repent and believe. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, I declare to you that our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

# ADORATION AND PRAISE

#### ACT OF PRAISE

O God, open my lips.

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

#### COLLECT FOR THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Let us pray the collect together.

Ever-present God, to whom each of us is fully known, and before whom we bow in awe, grant that we may live as children of your realm, listening to your Word, responding to your call, and following in the way of Christ. Inspire us to witness to your glory, bear fruit to benefit all your children, and grow together in light and love, that all the world may come to know you and honor your reign. We pray all of this through Jesus Christ. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

# THE WORD OF GOD

#### THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 44:6-8

There are no other gods besides God; the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel-and we-are redeemed.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

#### THE PSALTER

Psalm 86:11-17

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name for ever.

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

O God, the insolent rise up against me; a band of ruffians seeks my life, and they do not set you before them.

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your serving-maid.

Show me a sign of your favor,

So that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

#### THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:12-25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

#### The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

#### THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells a parable about the co-existence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

#### THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

**SERMON** 

"Wheat and Weeds"

Pastor Emeritus Royer

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

#### NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# PEOPLE'S OFFERING

#### OFFERING DEDICATION

Thank you, God, for the rich heritage of faith we have received from our ancestors. We are grateful that your Spirit is ever with us, assuring us of your acceptance and love. May our offerings share this good news with other children of God who have not yet discovered their identity. May all of grow in righteousness that we might together experience the reality of your realm in our daily lives, here and now and for all eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. From everlasting to everlasting, you have revealed your mighty presence to us. Have we not heard? Have we not known? In the beginning, you swept across the earth with your Spirit of life and renewal. When we forgot or neglected your truth, you redeemed us and renewed us. From the earth's first gardens to the mountaintop storms, you have spoken to us, and entrusted us to be your people. From laws on tablets to warnings from prophets, you have spoken your truth and renewed your covenant with us, reviving us and reclaiming

us through your grace and love. And so, with your people on earth, with all of creation, and with all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn of praise, saying:

Holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you and blessed is your holy name. In the fullness of time, you sent your son, Jesus Christ to reveal your powerful love for the world. Healing and teaching, proclaiming and prophesying, welcoming any and all, Christ continues to reveal your presence, renewing our souls even now. Through Christ's powerful love and endless grace, we are invited into your presence, rescued from our sins, and led onto your path of justice and righteousness. In Christ's grace, you renew and reclaim us as your holy people, children of mercy and truth. As children of your covenant of love, sealed by water and the Spirit, welcome now with joy and gratitude, remembering how Jesus shared bread and wine, renewing and reviving the lives of his closest friends, his most faithful disciples, even as they faced their deepest fears and their greatest sins.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

### THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

## BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

The Bread of Life, broken for us.

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.

(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you need the pastor and assistant to come to you, please indicate that to someone near you or the pastor. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements in the narthex and commune in your pew. The pastor will offer a blessing everyone has communed. Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.)

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

#### POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

You name each of us as your children. Guide our hospitality ministry to welcome all, our education ministry to equip us for faithful living, and our social ministry to enact the gospel in our community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction. Sustain your people living with illnesses, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

#### SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# **CLOSE OF WORSHIP**

### **BENEDICTION**



# CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers are given by Kathy Pilsner in memory of my husband, Henry Pilsner.

The Worship Aids are given in memory of James Diffenderfer, friend of Jack and Charlene Cristv.

# Ministering Today

Pastor Rev. Harry Royer Rev. Sandy Morris Lector

Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller, **Money Counters** 

Denise Pfeiffer

Nancy Enders, Anita Rohrer, Charlene Cristy Altar Guild

**Building Trustee** Pat Sensenig

Card Deacons (Denise Pfeiffer) **Ministries** 

Called to Care Nancy Enders

Visitation Noreen Trostle & Betsy Bailey

We welcome Pastor Emeritus Harry Royer as our guest preacher today. A graduate of Franklin & Marshall College and Lancaster Theological Seminary, Pastor Royer served the following congregations:

1965-68 Pastor, St. John's U.C.C., Freeland

1969-90 Pastor, St. John's U.C.C., Reading

1990-11 Pastor, Trinity U.C.C., East Petersburg

2011-15 Designated Supply Pastor, St. Luke's U.C.C., Lancaster

2018-19 Bridge Pastor, First Reformed U.C.C., Lancaster

On September 27, 2015, Trinity Church bestowed the title of Pastor Emeritus upon Rev. Royer.

## Happy Birthday!

Tuesday – Jenna Leinbach, Stefan Woerner

Wednesday - Nick Fischer

Thursday – Meighan Gegg Livingston, Marianne Gibble

Friday – Isaac Derstler, Lisa Wible

Saturday – Joanna Bullock

Attendance for Sun., July 16

7:45–19 9:30–55 **TOTAL – 74** 

# This Week at Trinity Church

(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)

Monday-Friday Work in Isenberg Hall Tuesday 1:00-3:00 – Prayer Shawl

Saturday 7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AA

Sunday 7:45 AM – Eucharist

9:30 AM – Eucharist

## PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HEALING PRESENCE

#### **MEMBERS**

Dr. Blaine Connor	Don & Pat Miller Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman		
Scott & Jane Owens	Dave Trostle	Dorothy Fasnacht	
Dr. Becky Wagner	John Shelsky	Dr. Janet Harriger	
The Lehman family	Donna Wolf	Deb Lichtenwalner	
Mike Wagner	Joann Peck	Eugene Hartenstine	
Mary Lou Shaab	Ron Becker	Stan & Pat Seachrist	
Rev. Dave & Mid Gockley	Donna Zirkel	Carmen & Jerry Richards	
Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser	Sam Minder III	Lainie Christensen	
Betty Tyndall and family	Hank Fox	Charles & Betty Booraem	
Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline	Nancy Patton	Bob & Marlyn Wible	
Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman	Mary Witmer	Kathleen Sensenig Adams	
Joann & Dawn Garvin	Erika Otthofer	Danielle Huggins Holbein	

## **FAMILY & FRIENDS**

The family of Robin McComsey (neighbor of Himelwrights)

Gina McCarty (daughter-in-law of Bud & Kathy McCarty)

The Bruno family (friends of Blaine Connor)

Jessica Brown (niece of Mike & Shelley Wagner)

Janice Zimmerman (sister of Ken Zimmerman)

Jack & Sandy Neal (friends of Trinity members)

Joan Nevins (friend of John and Sarah Paulukow)

Janet Grebinger (friend of John and Sarah Paulukow)

Larry Gerlach (brother of Dolly Barr)

James Michaud (Sevi Keares' teacher)

John Martin (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)

Kelly Quick (friend of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)

Marianne Gibble (friend of Trinity)

James Malone & family

Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)

Janet Owens (sister-in-law of Scott & Jane Owens)

Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel)

Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig),

**Don Pfeifer** (husband of Denise Pfeifer)

Rev. Phyllis Baum (former member of Trinity Church)

Jake & Jean Otthofer (parents of Dan Otthofer)

The Martin family

Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards)

Ronald Himelwright (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright)

Barry Richards (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)

Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio)

Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)

Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)

John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law)

Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)

The Bonilla-Rodriguez family (friends of Trinity Church)

**PASTOR ON VACATION:** Pastor Rankin will return to the office on Thursday, July 27. **The Rev. Sandy Morris** will be covering pastoral emergencies during this time. You can reach Rev. Morris at (717) 385-1588.

THE JULY/AUGUST PARISH POST is available on both floors of the church building.

**DEVOTIONALS:** The July-September edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance.

**VBS MISSION PROJECT:** This year's VBS mission project is the Hempfield Power Packs. You can donate to the offering by marking the special designation box on your offering envelope with "VBS Mission".

**TRINITY PRAYER BOOK:** In the spring, participants in the Adult Sunday School Class were sharing prayers that were meaningful to their family. Anne Rankin thought it would be good to compile these prayers and create a Trinity prayer book as part of our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. You can submit prayers to Pastor Chris or Anne.

SHARE YOUR STORIES/MEMORIES OF TRINITY CHURCH: The 175th Anniversary Committee invites members of the congregation to share your stories and memories of Trinity Church for our November Echoes of the Past article. What are some of the things you remember from our past? Who are some of the people you remember? For some of our newer members, what drew you to Trinity Church? Whether you have been here 50 years or you recently joined, we want to hear from you!! Please submit your stories/memories to the church office by October 6.



We still have a few openings for Musical Offerings over the summer and if anyone is interested in offering their gifts, they should contact Mike & Dina Slechta at music@trinityeastpete.org.

**2023 CONCERT SPONSORS:** Forms are available on the table across from the church office for you to sponsor this year's concert series.

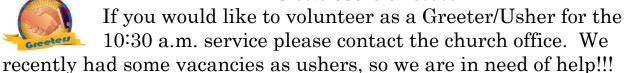


Hempfield Fire Department Park 19 Main Street, Landisville

(parking is in the lot behind the fire department)

### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

#### **Greeter /Ushers Needed**







Assist with the worship service or to just read the scripture lessons at the 7:45 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. services. Please contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz if you are willing to volunteer!

2023 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: Upcoming dates for chancel flowers are: August 13 & 27. Upcoming dates for worship aids are: August 13 & 20. The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Carol in the church office.



# MT. GRETNA BIBLE FESTIVAL 2023

# **Summer at the Tabernacle** | *Worship, Speakers and Concerts*

All Programs are in the Historic Tabernacle • 3<sup>rd</sup> St. & Glossbrenner Ave. Parking GPS Address: 41 Boulevard St, Mt. Gretna PA 17064 Please visit MtGretnaTabernacle.org for any program cancellations. A freewill offering will be received at each program.



July 23 Sunday 7 p.m. Speaker Rev. Alan Robinson National Director of the Brethren in Christ, U.S., Dillsburg, Pa.



**July 30** Sunday 7 p.m. Concert **Choir Festival** Internationally renowned composer Robert Lau, retired church musician and college professor, directs over 150 voices in a joyous concert. *Sponsored by Loser's Music. Concert made possible by the Estate of Douglas Troutman.* 

**August 2** Wednesday 7 p.m. Hymn Sing Led by **Bob Kettering and Dr. Rod Shearer**. Congregational favorites from the Celebration Hymnal.



**August 5** Saturday 7 p.m. Concert **Handbell Festival** Under the direction of Dr. Shawn Gingrich, Hershey, Pa., ringers from the area will ring the praise and glory of God.

# HARTMAN CENTER HOMECOMING CAMP (July 31-August 5)

There will be several camps happening that week at the Hartman Center Campground in Milroy (the former Penn Central Conference Camp). The Rankin family will be attending, so talk with them if you are interested in attending at all during that week.

**SUMMER CHURCH CAMP:** You can still register for summer camp at Kirchenwald & Nawakwa! There are a wide range of camps this summer for all ages — kindergarteners through high schoolers, families, adults, and older folks. Below is a list of the camps this year! **Contact Pastor Chris or Anne Rankin for more information!** 

As you know, Penn Central Conference paid for 50% of camp registration fees last year. It is wonderful to be able to announce that that same generous offer stands again this year! You can help send campers from Trinity by contribution to our Camp Scholarship Fund. Place your contribution in your weekly offering envelope and mark the special designation box with "Camp Scholarship".

CAMP	EXPLORERS Grades K-2	JUNIORS Grades 3-6	INTERMEDIATES Grades 6-9	SENIOR HIGH & ADVENTURE TRIPS	
JULY 23-29	Pioneers	Classic Arts & Crafts NightHawks S.U.R.E.	SUB Adventure	Adirondack Canoe (Grades 7-11)	
JULY 30- AUG 5	Day Camp (M-F)	Classic Bikes & Boulders	Back-Country Outpost High Adventure	KirchenQuest (Grades 7-11)	
AUG 6-12	Family Camp-K-tion (Family Camp)				
	Mini Camp	Ultimate Sports	Fishing Ultimate Sports		

# Kirchenwald is located on 340 acres of scenic forest, adjacent to 4,000 acres of State Game Lands, in Lebanon, PA.

CAMP	EXPLORERS Grades K-2	JUNIORS Grades 3-6	INTERMEDIATES Grades 6-9	SENIOR HIGH Grades 9-11
JULY 23-29	Nature Detectives Mini Camp	Classic Night Owls O.W.L.S. Wild Things	Classic Ten Day	Ten Day
JULY 30- AUG 5	Classic Day Camp (M-F)	Classic Team Sports	Classic Blaze and Paddle Adventure Team Sports	
AUG 6-12	Family Camp			

Nawakwa is located on 336 acres outside of Arendtsville, in Adams County, Pennsylvania.





ALL CONCERTS HELD AT
BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME

Lawn seating only- bring your favorite blanket or chair

Weapons, pets, tobacco and alcohol are prohibited on Bethany property.



Lancaster Association
Mission & Ministry Planned Event
Sunday, August 20

3:30-5:30 pm

Pavilion at Church of the Apostles.

It will be an ICE CREAM SOCIAL with a time to hear from various ministries and ministry partners.

#### FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come?

Let them tell us what is yet to be.

Bo not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

or Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 [not printed]

Psalm 86:11-17

#### SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup> 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!" <sup>16</sup> it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning

in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

#### GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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

<sup>36</sup>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." <sup>37</sup>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. <sup>41</sup>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. <sup>48</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"