

Weeds and wheat~ July 23, 2017~ Emmanuel~ The Rev. Susan Peyton

Last week our lesson was about seeds and growing, but it focused on the kind of soil you have. Whether rocky, thorny, a path or good soil. Today we hear about wheat that is sown on good soil. Somehow during the night, the enemy came and sowed weeds in the same field. I don't think I can go to the store and buy a packet of weed seeds to plant. I'm not sure the kind of weed is important. But what I consider a weed, someone else might consider ornamental, or edible. Generally, a weed is something that is a nuisance, not wanted or valuable. When you sow wheat, it is basically scattered on the ground, then someone else will till the soil to work the seeds in. These days, wheat is sown one seed per square inch. Now, it doesn't matter what would be sown with the wheat, that is very close together. And you wouldn't want any plant or weed to choke the life out of the wheat. From what I can determine, it takes 2 to 2 ½ months for wheat to be ready for harvest. What if you had weeds, or rather evil people, thoughts, actions, phrases surrounding you for 2 months. Every moment of every day, crowding you. Would they be able to plant evil thoughts in your mind? How can we shield ourselves from the evil that might be surrounding us? As the children of God, won't He be strengthening us, showing us the way, helping us develop our own values and conscience?

Later today we will gather with our neighbors from Trinity, Allen Chapel, Temple House of Israel, and the Islamic center of the Shenandoah Valley. We will break bread together, have activities to share and stories to learn. In the last few years, they have gone from being the unknown to our neighbors. Sometimes we let our fear of the unknown push away those we don't know. We have learned the value of greeting our neighbors, learning them as individuals, living the yard sign out front: No matter where you are from, we're glad you are our neighbor. "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." Let us make sure we don't mix up who are the weeds, and who are the wheat. Amen.