



## *Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast July 19, 2020*

Note on the Readings: Last Sunday the parable of the Sower and the Seeds, taught us about elements we have control over which affect our life in the Spirit. This week's parable is a little different: it talks about enemies of our Spiritual Life over which we have no control and may not immediately recognize.

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### ***Sunday Readings (7th Sunday After Pentecost)***

Genesis 28:10-19a: Isaac has given Jacob his blessing and has dispatched him to find a wife among his own clan. Like his father, Jacob is expected to marry among his own people, and he makes the journey himself. In this reading we are told about Jacob's dream at Bethel, "The Stairway to Heaven."

Psalms 139:1-11, 22-23: a faithful meditation upon the all-present God.

Romans 8:12-25: Paul has told us that Christian experience is dominated by life in the Spirit rather than by the desires of the flesh, or self-centeredness. Christians are still subject to suffering, to bearing crosses and affliction, but not to eternal condemnation. Not being condemned, we have hope.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43: In last Sunday's reading, Jesus has told a parable about a man who sowed good seed, only some of which landed in fertile ground. Now he tells one about both "wheat and weeds" that look like wheat growing together in good soil.

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### ***Not a sermon...(just some thoughts)***

A member of the clergy has written that Parables are the hardest scripture to preach on, because (1) people are usually so familiar with them they have them memorized and (2) the setting and images of Jesus's stories are quite different from what we see in our times. So maybe we need modern versions? How would you write the parable of the wheat and weeds for our time? It's ok to think about it – it's not an assignment! Here are a couple of things we might reflect on:

Division in the Church (the Church Universal and local congregations): I "googled" the topic of modern parables: the most common results had to do with arguments within and amongst different churches!

The Civil Rights Movement: US Rep. John Lewis died on Friday. He was a well-known and active leader in the Civil Rights movement of the 60's along with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. What about the seeds they planted? How have they borne fruit?

Racial Slurs / Swastikas Painted in the Saranac Lake Area: four arrests have been made so far, all 14 and 15-year-olds, who face felony and misdemeanor charges. More arrests will be made. Seeds planted by "the enemy"? Those are poisonous seeds and should be immediately pulled out!

Jesus demonstrated in parables that the kingdom of God is mysterious. It is for those who have ears to hear and will remain inscrutable for those who don't. We sow seeds and water the plants, but God alone gives the growth. We are not God and we do not know what the future holds for those seeds.

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***Prayers for*** Cynthia living with a cancer diagnosis; thanks for Chris's recovery from surgery; the safety and good health of residents and visitors to Raquette Lake.

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