

Lord God, I am in wonder at the world you have created and the life you have given me.
I thank you for that gift of life and the joy of sharing my life with others.

(Opening prayer of online Methodist Service for today)

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
thee.*

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
and sky and sea.*

God in three persons, blessed Trinity.



*Early in the morning our song shall rise to
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,*

*All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,*

Confession! I haven't been so consistent with my morning walks this week. I'll blame the weather!

Nevertheless my walks last Sunday and today (Friday) did generate some thoughts – I hesitate to say

'inspiration'! Last Sunday morning I sat in the churchyard of the little church in Stert. There's a set of seats there with views looking westwards across the Vale of Pewsey to the Plain. So quiet. So peaceful. A place to sit and contemplate. A place to pray.



fantastic sight. A black/white contrast. Closer inspection showed it to be a field of Oxeye daisies. A common wild plant which thrives along field margins. Its large blooms are so bright that they appear to

'glow' in the evening, hence the other common names of 'Moon daisy' and 'Moonpenny'. (*Wildlife Trusts website*). Mine glowed in the sunshine.

I've obviously got to try an evening walk. They flower June to September so I've got time.



On the way back the sky darkened but the sun's rays shone through transforming this field to a brilliant white. A



*Fair waved the golden corn
in Canaan's pleasant land,
when, full of joy, some shining morn,
went forth the reaper-band.*

I'm sure harvest time is getting earlier and earlier. This barley field is becoming white gold. I mentioned the Wheat and

Tares on another occasion. This morning these people were not reapers but were doing just that – separating the wheat from the tares. Pulling out the wild oats so the wheat field would be

'uncontaminated' when harvested. This doesn't quite fit in with the ending of this parable though! The problem of making analogies!

"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.” (Matthew 13 24-30)



I ended my walk this morning by going down into Drew’s Pond Wood again. It’s always such a contrast coming from the wide openness of the hills into the shade and darkness of the dense woodland foliage. Each has their own beauty. The bird song was really loud today. I came down to my Pool of Reflections and then along to the Faraway Bridge. No good trying to play Pooh Sticks here today. Here over the last week some dams have been built – I did actually see someone constructing one on Monday. I thought ‘this is me at the moment - and I think many other

people as well. The fast-flowing stream beyond the dam is released from lockdown. But I’m feeling ‘Hey, slow down I don’t want to go so fast. Put the brakes on, build the dams. Let’s go in smaller steps.’ Again, please don’t take the analogy too far, but I am sure you were careful on Independence Day, ‘Super Saturday’ as some people have called it.



Our world is going to be a different place for some long time to come. This was particularly brought home to me when the school arrangements for September were announced his week with the need for social distancing of some sort still very much in evidence. So many groups cannot meet partly because their usual meeting place size and numbers in the groups are not compatible with social distancing. A different world , but it is still God’s world.

Through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God
shall still my heart and tongue employ

Gracious God, the psalmist writes, “I will sing of the Lord’s great love for ever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations”. Let us walk in the light of your love, let us stand firm upon your word. We know that blessed are those who rejoice in your name, let us rejoice this day for it is the day that you have made! We ask for strength to glorify your name, all honour and praise to you be given this day, now and forever! Amen

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