

All creation waits with eager longing for the time

When it will all be put right.

When we can move and breathe freely in our world once again

When evil will have no more power

When God in Christ will bring us all together as one

all creation waits with eager longing.....like the young lover who cranes her neck to look down the tracks for a first glimpse of the train, longing and anticipating the arrival of her beloved -

Honestly I am getting tired of waiting. Of waiting and watching and hoping and trying to breathe in this distressing world.

I am tired of waiting for it to be all right once again. But it is not time, we are not ready. So what are we to do? In these times, our work is to dive deeply into the dark places of our history

and confront the truth that often we can find ourselves on the wrong side of the story

This is the time when we are just beginning to understand the fear and caution of our African descent brothers and sisters who don't feel safe on their own roads, in their own homes, or walking down their own streets

we end up bewildered at how we were complicit in a system we saw only as good which, too often, was death for our neighbors.

Each day the headlines shout out distrust and arrogance in a world gone mad

where the discomfort of a face mask outranks the life of a neighbor

Each day an unseen enemy sows death and suffering among us – silently infecting both the sinner and the saint, the young and the old.

Casting weeds among the orderly rows of our lives, choking life out of the weak or vulnerable and slaying even the strong and the brave

All this and we can see no end in sight.

And there is nothing we can do to fix it. Not by ourselves. Not on our own.

We must wait.

As Americans We reject this powerlessness.

We gather up the tools we use: our intellect, our education, our strong backs and unconquerable spirit and we go forth to root out the evil, pull up the weeds, cut down the invaders, destroy the enemy!

Yet we discover two things. The weeds that infuriate us look so much like the good wheat itself that we cannot always discern the difference – and we find that we are pulling up parts of the harvest, disrupting the growth of the grain. It is not always clear what needs to be destroyed, and what is the good harvest just coming into full bloom.

And second: Too often those death dealing weeds are found not just in the other, but planted in our lives as well. We must admit that there are others who would look on our lives and want to pull some weeds out of our gardens.

There is evil among us – sucking up the nutrients from the soil, crowding us out, stealing some of our precious sun and rain...keeping all creation from the life God offers.

And we are left waiting and watching, enduring and suffering.....so we ask

Can't God do something about this?

Relieve us of this suffering?

Overcome the evil among us?

Are we not the forgiven Children of God who cry out Abba! Father!?

Just like Jesus, the Son of God cried out My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?.....

Which one of us could have looked upon that suffering face and discerned the face of God?

How could we have ever imagined that God was at work in that terrible evil?
Who knew that the path to the empty tomb ran right through the cross?
For Jesus and for us.

Paul writes 'all creation is groaning in labor pains', struggling to give birth to this new world –

that you and I are groaning within ourselves – feeling the crushing weight of all that is broken and reaching towards the new life in Christ

Together with creation we wait with eager longing = craning our necks to catch a glimpse of the new life being born, the peace God promises.

.....which is being born right under our nose – out there in that wheat field riddled with weeds.

God is at work – in the midst of the violence and hatred

in the midst of the arrogance and prideof the overflowing hospital wards

and in the midst of human authorities whose abuse and ignorance is killing us

God is at work.

Today's scripture calls us to courage, humility, patience and trust. Jesus paints for us a picture of a landowner holding back servants eager to get their hands on the weeds they are sure they can both identify –

Paul paints a picture of a woman in the throws of a long and protracted childbirth – where every ounce of her energy is being used to bring new life into this world .

Today we are called to pause – and recognize the depth of patience that is required and the acute attentiveness needed to recognize God at work.

We are moved to humility in the face of all we do NOT know, and must muster the strength to deeply trust the God who gave us Jesus.

God asks that we wait and watch. ...not as those without hope, but as Children of God.....people who are already the salt of the earth....who are already the light on the hill. In these times, be who you are – each day, every day – be the presence of God in this world.

Then waitwatch.....trust.....for God is at work.