

## Chelmsford Cathedral – Prayer for Today

WEDNESDAY, 21 July 2020



Other nations say,  
“A new world of wonders!  
The Lord is with them.”  
Yes, God works wonders.  
Rejoice! Be glad!  
Lord, bring us back  
as water to thirsty land.  
Those sowing in tears  
reap, singing and laughing.  
They left weeping, weeping,  
casting the seed.  
They come back singing, singing,  
holding high the harvest.  
*Words from Psalm 126*

*As you enter into prayer today, take a moment to be still. Come into God's presence with a deepfelt desire to meet with God now. Know that God is the God who sees you and that God is looking at you now with great love. Pause for a moment and be still.*

Be with us, God of consolation,  
when we are made weary by this world;  
turn our sorrow into joy  
and give us lips to sing your praise  
and lives to proclaim your victory in Jesus Christ,  
our crucified and risen Lord. Amen.

*Today's parable is almost too well known – we are used to it so don't hear its challenge. And of course few of us have any experience of subsistence farming so it is difficult for us to imagine the terror of a failed harvest and the importance of good growth. All of that is in the background here as Jesus uses a farming sowing seed as a metaphor for the kingdom of God. The challenge for us is to prepare the good ground in which the seed can grow and bear abundant fruit.*

### **Matthew 13.1-9**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

*Spend some time reflecting on the reading, mulling it over.  
Ask God what God wants you to hear today.*

*Offer your personal prayers and thanksgivings  
and offer the day to God in a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving.*

*End this time of prayer by saying the Lord's Prayer.*

*To keep in touch and for more resources for daily prayer  
Please visit [chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk](http://chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk)*