THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Saturday 25th April
Prepared by Margaret Tuffin

Genesis chapter 1 11-13

*Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it according to their various kinds”. And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seeds according to their kinds, trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.*

In the front of my house is a strip of grass which I share with my neighbour. We take it in turns to mow it. In the last week dandelions have been flowering and I have been removing the flower heads to prevent them from seeding. But they are such cheerful flowers and are signs of how God works. Each flower is made up of communities of flowers clustered together and interdependent. Rather like the communities in which we live and are now realising how much we need each other.

The “Cheerful unrepentant weeds “ by Jan Sutch Pickard reminds us of this.

In the beginning

God saw the cheerful unrepentant weeds:

and God saw that they were good.

They were fruitful and multiplied.

They bloomed on poor soil

and in the barren wilderness;

they brought colour into a solemn world.

God considers them as well as the lilies- they don’t toil or spin either, but they breed like rabbits and spread like wildfire.

Never anxious about tomorrow,

today they reclaim the wasteland,

Break through concrete, transform bomb -sites.

They are treasure hidden in a field.

Common as muck, but clothed in purple and gold, they proclaim the presence of their creator.

God, open-handed sower of grace,

Sees that thistles, flourishing on the field’s edge, won’t give stray seeds a chance; aware of the sparrow’s fall, Knows how the smallest seed of all grows till it can shelter the birds of the air, Finding somewhere to make a fresh start.

God values the dandelions as harvest:

we cannot live by bread alone,

our souls hunger for beauty and meaning-
We are nourished by signs of the Kingdom.

God, knowing the secret of life and death, created green shoots that spring up after rain, flowers that follow the sun, fruits that trust the winds of heaven, and seeds that will only grow if they fall in the earth and die.

These weeds-as down-to earth as you or me- are parables of the wisdom and work of God.

Seeds that grow if they fall in the earth and die. Love is come again

Hymn 306 in Singing the Faith Now the green blade rises.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zoEJr1Hu21c>

 1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
 wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;
 Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
 *Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.*

 2 In the grave they laid him, Love who had been slain,
 thinking that he never would awake again,
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:

 3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
 he that for the three days in the grave had lain,
 quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:

 4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
 then your touch can call us back to life again,
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872–1958) *(alt.)*

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The seeds from the dandelions give us hope as Kate Mcllhagga writes In “Dandelion clock”

Here is a dark elusive child curled in the womb;
cradled in our arms.

It can be lost, disappear,

blown on the wind like a dandelion clock.

It’s going, it’s ebbing away

leaves us grieving, empty, hopeless.

(“But” is a hopeful word.)

But, even as the gossamer powder-puff disintegrates, the seeds are carried to cling to distant crevices.

As it recedes it re-seeds to grow again.

God, giver of peace,

Grow hope within and around us.

God of steadfast love,

Never leave us helpless.