



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

Second Sunday after Pentecost

29 May 2016

Sentence A great prophet has arisen among us! God has visited his people!

Luke 7.16

Collect

Searching God, finding faith in unexpected places:
free us from the contempt of what is familiar
and the horror of what remains foreign
that we might celebrate your presence
intimate and other and wholly alive;
through Jesus Christ, friend of strangers. **Amen.**

A reading from the first book of Kings.

Solomon's prayer and vision is radically inclusive of all nations. His father David had wanted to build a 'house' for the Lord, a temple in Jerusalem but it was Solomon who carried out that vision. This portion of Solomon's prayer gives us the last of seven petitions that even foreigners will be heard by God and even their prayers be responded to.

Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, 'O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, 'Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays towards this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling-place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

1 Kings 8. 22-23, 41-43

Reader For the word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Psalm 96.1-9 8am APBA, 323

This is an enthronement psalm calling on all nations to acknowledge that Israel's God is the sole, universal God, the ideal judge, judging with righteousness.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

When Paul wrote this letter, the numbers of Gentiles in the 'Jesus movement' in Judaism were growing. Sometime around the early 50's AD the burning issue became the keeping of the Law of Moses – did the Gentiles have to observe all, or any of it to be members of the Church? Paul strongly refutes the claim that converts had to become Jews by circumcision and Law. He calls that 'a different gospel' and defends his earlier teaching as directly revealed to him by Jesus Christ. In the gospel we will see how inclusive was Jesus' own behaviour towards Gentiles.

Paul an apostle—sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— and all the members of God's family who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen. I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let that one be accursed! As we have said before, so now I repeat, if anyone proclaims to you a gospel contrary to what you received, let that one be accursed! Am I now seeking human approval, or God's approval? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still pleasing people, I would not be a servant of Christ. For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Gal. 1.1-12

Reader May your word live in us
ALL and bear much fruit to your glory

Gospel acclamation

ALL **Alleluia. Alleluia.**
Jesus said, 'I tell you this:
not even in Israel have I found such faith.'

All **Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Reader The Lord be with you

ALL **And also with you**

Reader A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

ALL **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

This story parallels Peter's conversion of the gentile centurion Cornelius, who was also generous towards Jews (Acts 10). This centurion would have known that for Jesus to enter the house of a Gentile was considered 'unclean' and defiling, and so he does not ask it. However, Jesus makes it clear that this foreign man's faith is acceptable and the servant is healed.

Jesus entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, 'He is worthy of having you do this for him, for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us.' And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, 'Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, "Go", and he goes, and to another, "Come", and he comes, and to my slave, "Do this", and the slave does it.' When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, 'I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.' When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

Luke 7.1-10

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Bible Readings next week Third Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 17.17-24 Psalm 30 Galatians 1.11-24 Luke 7.11-17

Prayer for the Week. O Lord, from whom alone all good things come: grant that your holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by your merciful guiding may perform them; through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Herbert William Satchell, Authur Mansell, Noel Willsmore, Dorothy Valentine, Jocelyn Margaret Ray and Robina Bisset *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the week

June 9 Columba of Iona,

abbot and missionary (c.521-597). Born in Ireland, where he founded a number of monasteries, in 565. With a group of monks, he went to Scotland to found a monastery at Iona, where he spent the rest of his life. Iona became one of the great centres of evangelisation for the UK and the monastery was revived again in the 20th century by a Scotsman, George McLeod.

June 11 Barnabas, apostle and martyr.

Companion of Paul on Paul's first missionary journey and at the Council of Jerusalem, where he supported Paul. Later he quarrelled with Paul and returned to Syria. His later ministry is not known.

A prayer for the Anglican Centre in Rome on the 50th anniversary of its establishment. The Director is the Abp of Canterbury's representative to the Holy See. Following the Second Vatican Council, it was dedicated by Archbishop Michael Ramsey on 22 March that year before his historic visit to Pope Paul VI the following day. It was on the next day, 24 March 1966 that the Pope gave the Archbishop his episcopal ring.

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, you have called us in the body of your son Jesus Christ to continue his work of reconciliation. In gratitude we celebrate the presence of the Anglican Centre in Rome and give thanks for its reconciling witness to Christian unity. As we remember the gift of hope that so inspired its creation, we pray that this same hope may strengthen our witness to justice and peace in the world, and encourage us in our commitment to one body, one faith, and one Lord, even Jesus Christ, your risen and glorified Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever . Amen.

