



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

12 June 2016

Sentence It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I live now in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. *Galatians 2.20*

Collect

Lord, you invite our touch beyond decency,
beyond order, beyond possession:
may the anointing woman teach us to break the seal of the heart
and pour it at your feet;
and may the fragrance of love weave through our rising prayers;
through Jesus Christ, the Anointed One. **Amen.**

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

Uriah was one of King David's most loyal warriors but when David wanted his wife Bathsheba who then became pregnant, David arranged for Uriah to be killed in battle. Nathan the prophet confronts David with a story about a rich man who stole a poor man's only lamb.

When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord, and the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, 'There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meagre fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveller to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him.' Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, 'As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.' Nathan said to David, 'You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; I gave you your

master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' Nathan said to David, 'Now the Lord has put away your sin; you shall not die. Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child that is born to you shall die.' Then Nathan went to his house. The Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became very ill.

2 Sam. 11.26-12.10, 13-15

Reader For the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 32 APBA, page 252

A thanksgiving psalm, it assumes that human affliction is God's punishment and that healing is found through forgiveness. While we no longer see things so 'simply', nevertheless there are connections between spiritual health and physical wellbeing beyond our full understanding.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians

Jews called Gentiles 'sinners' because they were idolaters, adherents to a non Jewish religion and not observant of the law which marked Israel's identity. There is a disputed translation in this passage – is it our faith IN Jesus Christ which redeems us, or is it the faith OF Jesus which restores humanity's relationship with God?

We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the

flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing. *Galatians 2.15-21*

Reader May your word live in us,
ALL And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!
Jesus said to the woman:
your faith has saved you; go in peace.

ALL 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

The dinners given by prominent people were open to public gaze; the construction of houses made this possible. This act by an unnamed woman is therefore very public. It is not clear why she anoints Jesus' feet and not his head. It is clear that deep gratitude produces deep love and faith, and it is this which Jesus commends.

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner.' Jesus spoke up and said to him, 'Simon, I have something to say to you.' 'Teacher,' he replied, 'speak.' 'A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?' Simon answered, 'I suppose the one for whom he cancelled the greater debt.' And Jesus said to him, 'You have judged rightly.' Then turning towards the woman, he said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You

gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.' Then he said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.' But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, 'Who is this who even forgives sins?' And he said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.' Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

Luke 7.36-8.3

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Bible Readings next week Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65.1-9 Psalm 22.20-29 Galatians 3.10-14, 23-29 Luke 8.26-39

Prayer for the Week. All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life, defeat into victory: increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over evil, in the strength of the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: William Wedlake, George Hill, Sydney Haselden, Caroline Sanderson, Alexander Green, Eric Douglas Brangwin Green, Ula Sanderson, Eric Vanden Driesen, Vera Theobald, Joan Jackson, Lillian Lobb, Michael Duffield, Iain Courcoux, Judith McMullen, Harry Hewett *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the week: June 13 Antony of Padua, missionary and preacher (1185-1231). A Franciscan friar and priest, born in Lisbon. In 1220 he sailed for North Africa but ill-health forced him to return. He then went to Italy where he spent the rest of his life. He had exceptional intellectual and oratorical gifts and was an eloquent preacher, attracting large crowds.

June 15 Evelyn Underhill, spiritual writer (1875-1941) . English poet and mystic, who produced many books on mysticism and spirituality; one of them, *Mysticism* (1911) becoming a classic.