



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

26 June 2016

Sentence Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for Jesus' sake will find it. *Matthew 7.9-10*

Collect

O God the light of the minds that know you, the life of the souls that love you, the strength of the thoughts that seek you: help us so to know you that we may truly love you, and so to love you that we may fully serve you, whose service is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A reading from the first book of Kings.

This is the story of Elisha being found to succeed Elijah. He leaves his old way of life decisively by destroying his previous means of sustenance. It is Elisha who eventually anoints the kings named to Elijah signifying God's engagement in the political process.

The Lord said to Elijah, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was ploughing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, 'Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.' Then Elijah said to him, 'Go back again; for what have I done to you?' He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

1 Kings 19.15-16, 19-21

Reader For the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 16 APBA, page 234

This is a psalm of trust and the psalmist may be a priest in Jerusalem's Temple.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians

Paul contrasts freedom and slavery, flesh and spirit, and vice and virtue. The most important message of this passage is that by being set free through Christ, Christians are to continue to live guided by the Holy Spirit. By living by the Spirit, the 'nine types of fruit' become a readily discernible part of a person's character.

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Gal. 5.1, 13-25

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

Gospel Acclamation

ALL **Alleluia! Alleluia!**
Jesus went through one town and village after
another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem.

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

Jesus' going to Jerusalem is a fulfilment of his mission. Travelling in obedience to God's call is one of the central pictures of what it means to be a Christian. Following Jesus is what it's all about... and it's not easy. It comes with great challenge. The question comes home to us. Where is Jesus asking us to travel? Are we ready to follow him wherever he goes?

When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village. As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.' *Lk 9.51-62*

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Bible Readings next week 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 66.10-14 Ps 66.1-8 Galatians 6.7-18 Luke 10.1-12, 17-24

Prayer for the Week

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to suffer death upon a cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Jill Slattery, Montolieu (Mon) Russell, Frank Townsend, Priest, Amelia Corless, Robert Farquharson, John Hilsberg, Helen Cotton, Leonard Newton, Bill McSpedden, Priest, Roberta Frost, Daphne (Bon) Chandler, Erich Mehrens, Thomas Percival (Tom) Pringle *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the week

June 27 Cyril of Alexandria, bishop and teacher (c. 376-444). The most outstanding theologian produced by the See of Alexandria.

June 28 Irenaeus of Lyons, bishop and teacher (c.130-200). The greatest theologian of the 2nd century. Noted for his opposition to Gnosticism, a movement similar to the 20th century New Age Movement.

June 29 Peter and Paul, apostles and martyrs. Well known to every reader of the New Testament. Both martyred in Rome c. 63-65. **July 1 Coming of the Light**, the first missionaries to the Torres Straits (1871) The festival marks the day the London Missionary Society first arrived in 1871 in the Torres Strait.

Renewing the Parish: from 'coming to Church' to 'being the Church.'

We had a most lively and positive meeting of 70 parishioners last Sunday. The vicar and wardens made short presentations and people were invited to respond. The response sheets and handouts are available at the back of the Church today. Pick up a copy if you could not make it last week, and get on board.

The church exists primarily for two closely correlated purposes: to worship God and to work for his kingdom in the world.

You can and must worship, and work for God's kingdom, in private and in ways unique to yourself, but if God's kingdom is to go forward, rather than around and around in circles, we must work together as well as apart. **The church also exists for a third purpose, which serves the other two: to encourage one another, to build one another up in faith, to pray with and for one another, to learn from one another and teach one another, and to set one another examples to follow, challenges to take up, and urgent tasks to perform.** This is all part of what is known loosely as *fellowship*.

This doesn't just mean serving one another cups of tea and coffee.

It's all about living within that sense of a joint enterprise, a family business, in which everyone has a proper share and a proper place.

N T Wright, *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*.

