



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

21 August 2016

Sentence You, O Lord, are my hope, my trust from my youth.
Upon you have I leaned since my birth. *Psalm 71.5-6*

Collect

God of the Sabbath, this is the day and this is the hour, when women long oppressed learn to stand with dignity, when your healing escapes our desire to control: may your joy stretch the fabric of our hearts and inspire us to loose each other's bond; through Jesus Christ, the shamer of the powerful and the raiser of the dead. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The prophet is told to unmask to the people their behaviour in ignoring the needy while maintaining religious practices. This contradictory way of life prevents them experiencing the fullness of God's presence. Here, the way of life that leads to human flourishing is set out.

You shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;

you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.
If you refrain from trampling the sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honourable;
if you honour it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;
then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. *Isaiah 58.9b-14*

Reader For the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 103. 1-8 APBA, page328

This hymn of praise looks back to the foundational events in the book of Exodus and extols God for steadfast love which can be relied upon. It is worth learning by heart for remembrance in difficulties.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

The assembly at Mount Sinai where the Torah (Law) was given is contrasted with the new assembly of God's people in heaven. Through the benefits of knowing Jesus now, those still on the way (to heaven) can be said to have already arrived.

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, 'If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.') Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, 'I tremble with fear.') But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that

speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, 'Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.' This phrase 'Yet once more' indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire. *Hebrews 12.18-29*

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

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!

We are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, so let us give thanks.

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 associates the woman's physical disorder with the work of Satan, that is forces opposed to God. We should take care to understand this properly: Jesus intends us to see that affliction conflicts with God's purposes for our wellbeing. He does not blame the woman individually. As a daughter of Abraham and Sarah, Jesus' ministry is to bring her God's healing as a sign of God's power to overturn all that distorts and destroys human life.

Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, 'Woman, you are set free from your ailment.' When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the

crowd, 'There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.' But the Lord answered him and said, 'You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?' When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing. *Luke 13.10-17*

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord
ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Bible Readings next week 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 25.6-7 Ps. 112 Hebrews 13.1-8,15-16 Lk. 14.1,7-14

Prayer for the Week. Creator God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you: teach us to offer ourselves to your service, that here we may have your peace, and in world to come may see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Justine Tsiang, Mona Reid, Marjorie Tozer, Helen Pritchard, Alfred Watson, Reginald Hayden, *Priest*, Bertram Cowley, Freda Burnett, Elfrida Reeson, Edna Jean Fyfe *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the week. August 24 Bartholomew, apostle and martyr. Nothing is known of him, except his listing as one of the Twelve Apostles. **August 27 Monica, mother of St. Augustine** (d.387). A woman of piety and not above making great demands on her son, she would not let the adult Augustine out of her sight, much to his annoyance! There is a moving description of her death in the *Confessions of St. Augustine.*

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH?

These are the purposes of God's Church, to which we commit ourselves at St George's, which make for a just and non violent world as God intends.

- Worship God made known in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God.
- Nurture and teach new believers as we grow in faith together.
- Respond to human need in loving service.
- Seek to transform unjust structures of society.
- Safeguard creation and sustain and renew the earth.