



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

2 October 2016

Sentence 'Who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? But I am among you,' says the Lord, 'as one who serves.'
Luke 22.27

Collect

God, the rock of our salvation, whose gifts can never fail,
deepen the faith you have already bestowed
and let its power be seen in your servants.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of the prophet Habakkuk.

Habakkuk is one of the minor prophets and dates to the late 7th c BC.

Today's portion is in the form of a dialogue between God and the prophet. The underlying question in the book asks 'is this fair?' meaning the events leading to the destruction of Jerusalem. The answer comes that God remains sovereign, and wicked ways will eventually come under God's correction. In the meantime the righteous are to live by faith, adhering to the instructions and promises of God.

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,

and you will not listen?

Or cry to you 'Violence!'

and you will not save?

Why do you make me see wrongdoing

and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;

strife and contention arise.

So the law becomes slack

and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous—

therefore judgement comes forth perverted.

I will stand at my watch-post,
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

Then the LORD answered me and said:

Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.

Look at the proud!

Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith. *Habakkuk 1.1-4; 2.1-4*

Reader For the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 37.1-9 APBA 258

This psalm reminds us that anger at the unfairness of those who prosper by deceitful means is not just a modern day phenomenon. Yet we would do well to heed the words of the psalmist who reminds us to place ourselves into God's care, be still and know God is in control.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

Timothy is Paul's 'beloved child' in the faith and in this second letter Paul portrays him as his spiritual heir to whom he hands on (traditions) the wisdom and truth he has learned over a lifetime of serving the gospel.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God

did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

2 Tim 1.1-14

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

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!

The greatest among you must become as the youngest, says the Lord, and leader like one who serves.

ALL Alleluia!

Reader The Lord be with you

ALL And also with you

Reader A reading from the holy gospel according to St Luke

ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus' journey to Jerusalem is now entering its final stages. His teaching is no longer concerned with initial conversion but ongoing life in the community of faith. These saying particularly address leaders and the reality of misbehaviours and injury.

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' The Lord replied, 'If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you. 'Who

among you would say to your slave who has just come in from ploughing or tending sheep in the field, "Come here at once and take your place at the table"? Would you not rather say to him, "Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink"? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, "We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!"

Luke 17.5-10

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

Bible Readings next week Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5.1-3, 7-15c Psalm 111 2 Timothy 2.8-15 Luke 17.11-19

Prayer for the Week Generous God, whose hand is open to fill all things living with plenteousness: make us ever thankful for your goodness, and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Barbara Hindell, John Weigall, Rosa Brenda Righetti, Nancy Macindoe, Peter Campbell Trumble, James Whitaker, Gertrude Rhoden, Kathleen Woollacott, James Elliot Wilkie, Evelyn Pascal, Alice Davie, Vanessa Stevens, Hilda Newman, Frederick Sydney Powell *who died this past week*

Commemorations of the week

October 4 – Francis of Assisi (1181-1226), friar and priest and founder of the Franciscan Order. Born of a wealthy family, he renounced his inheritance to become a friar. His simple life style, renunciation of wealth, generosity, love of nature and deep devotion, have made him popular in the 21st century. The *Little Flowers of St. Francis*, legends about the early Franciscan movement, has been treasured for centuries.

October 6 – William Tyndale (1494-1536) biblical scholar. His translation of the bible from the Greek and Hebrew, in vigorous English, is the basis for the Authorised Version and many other versions.

**MALVERN CARER SUPPORT GROUP -
OPEN TO ALL PARISHIONER CARERS**

Are you providing unpaid care for someone in the community? If so you may be interested to know that Caulfield Community Health Service (CCHS) facilitates the Malvern Carer Support Group for carers who reside in Malvern and surrounding areas. This group is provided by CCHS because we recognize that caring can be rewarding but also challenging.

The group meets monthly and is currently seeking new members. Most members are caring for a spouse or an aged parent who has a chronic illness or dementia. The group is facilitated by a Social Worker. There is no cost required to attend the group except gold coin donation to cover afternoon tea.

What Happens In The Group?

- Individual sharing of carer experiences
- Facilitator provides support and information
- Social outings occur several times per year
- Guest speakers provided as requested

Meeting details: When: 1st Wednesday of the month from 1.30-3.30pm (except January)

Where: St. George's Anglican Centre (North Room)

How to attend the group: Please contact facilitator Sue Bottomley on 9076 6869 before attending the group.