



## Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 1 October 2017

**Sentence** Come, let us return to the Lord, that we may live before him. *Hosea 6.1a, 2b*

**Collect** God of strange authority,  
whose questions challenge the powers of this world:  
teach us to look beyond appearance,  
to see your kingly rule in cross-stretched arms,  
through Jesus Christ, the only Lord, the humble servant;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, in everlasting glory. **Amen.**

### **A reading from the book of the Exodus.**

*Having crossed the Red Sea, now the people are travelling the harsh desert, dependent on God alone and without water. They complain and quarrel with Moses and the place is named Massah, meaning 'Test' and Meribah 'Quarrel', for this reason. God provides water from the springs at Kadesh-barnea, in the region south of the Negev; it is still an oasis today.*

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The LORD said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your

hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

*Ex.17.1-7*

Reader Hear the word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 78.1-4, 11-16 at 8am APBA page 301**

*This long psalm recalls Israel's rebellion in the desert and God's merciful provision. It was written to teach succeeding generations the story of Israel's past.*

### **A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians**

*Paul is thought to be quoting an early Christian hymn in vv.5-11. It is a profound summary of the story of humanity's redemption through the self emptying of Christ in taking our human flesh, that is the whole of our human life upon himself and submitting to our death, and who now shares with us the glory God has bestowed on him. The early Church had a saying: he became as we are that we might become as he is.*

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

*Phil.2.1-13*

Reader May your word live in us

**All And bear much fruit to your glory**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**All Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Cantor When Jesus entered the Temple: the chief priests and  
elders came to him as he was teaching.

**All Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Reader The Lord be with you

**ALL And also with you**

Reader A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

**ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

*Jesus' authority, questioned by the chief priests and elders, comes from God. In the ensuing argument Jesus puts them on the back foot as they find themselves compared unfavourable to outcasts whose lives suggests they are not responding to God, but who in truth have hearts more attuned to God than the religious leaders. Being judgmental may indicate that a person lacks real knowledge of God's compassion and inclusive love.*

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

*Matthew 21.23-32*

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

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

**Prayer for the Week.** O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant us such a measure of your commandments, we may obtain your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Bible Readings next week      18th Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 20.1-4, 7-9,19-20    Psalm 19    Philippians 3.4b-14  
Matthew 21.33-46

**Pray for the Faithful Departed** We remember before God:  
Nancy Milne, Kenneth Moss, 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, Doris Wood, Vanessa Stevens,  
Hilda Newman and Frederick Sydney Powell *whose anniversaries  
occur this week*

**Some background on the importance of the vineyard as symbol.**

“The vineyard of the Lord... is Israel’. The image of God as the owner and carer of Israel as if it were a vineyard is important. It underpins Jesus’ parables about vineyards. As the biblical phrase ‘everyone living at peace under their own vine and their own fig tree’ (1 Kgs 4:25; Mic 4:4) implies, many households had a vine growing in the courtyard. Large vineyards were also planted (classic descriptions of this are (Is 5:1-2 & Ps 80:8-13). These were often on the sides of hills unsuitable for grain crops because of the slope. The cultivation of vines demanded high investment of time and labour. The ground had to be terraced, rocks removed (Is 5:2; Ps 80:9) from the uphill side and used for a wall on the downhill side to retain soil and the ground levelled. Regular tasks included tending fruit, watering, pruning (Lev 25:4) and hoeing (Is 5:6). Predators, both two and four legged were kept away by walls (Ps 80:12), or were chased off (Ps 80:12-13), so temporary shelters or even permanent "watch-towers" (Is 5:2) were constructed ([Is 1:8](#)).

## **Commemorations of the Week.**

**October 4 Francis of Assisi** (1181-1226), friar and priest and founder of the Franciscan Order. Born to 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 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**October 6 William Tyndale** (1494-1536) biblical scholar. His translation of the scriptures from the Greek and Hebrew into then contemporary English, became the basis for the Authorised Version.