



**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost                      8 October 2017**

**Sentence** The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.  
*Matthew 21.42*

**Collect** Almighty God, your Son Jesus was the stone rejected by the builders, and, by your doing, he has been made the chief cornerstone: grant that, by the power of his Spirit working in us, we may become living stones built up into your dwelling place, a temple holy and acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

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

*The Hebrew scriptures records these commandments twice. Here they are presented as words spoken by God to Moses at Mt Sinai. Both versions are embedded in the story of God's rescue of the people from slavery in Egypt. The words reveal the basis of God's relationship with Israel which is a covenant between God and the people. Thus the 'commandments' cover all of life; they are not a legal code but a response of loving obedience from a grateful people. God spoke all these words:*

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall

labour and do all your work.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, 'You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.' Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.'

*Exodus: 20.1-4, 7-9, 12-20*

Reader Hear the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

### **Psalm 19 at 8am APBA page 239**

*This is a hymn to God the creator and giver of 'laws' called 'words' for human community. Two sections have been combined to connect God's creation with God's instruction, imaged as 'food' sweeter than honey.*

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

*Paul writing from prison and facing imminent death urges the Philippians to greater faith by giving witness to his.*

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the

tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 3.4b-14*

Reader May your word live in us

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

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**All Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Cantor Jesus said to them: 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.'

**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.**

*In this parable, the landowner does all that is necessary to produce enough for himself and his tenants. But the tenants want more than their rightful share—they want the whole heritage. Their actions lead to their losing everything—even their lives. This parable is an allegory; the vineyard is Jerusalem, the tenants the religious authorities, the slaves the prophets and the son Jesus himself.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes"?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they

realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet. *Matt. 21.33-46*

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

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

**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.**

**Bible Readings next week St Luke E & M transferred**

Jer. 8.22-9.3 Ps. 145.10-18 2 Tim. 4.9-17a Luke 10.1-9

**Pray for the Faithful Departed:** We remember before God: Lester Triggs, Ian Johnson, Gwendolyn Berriman, Harold Smith, Cecilia Furlonger, Philip Wood, Barbara Leila Fordyce, Suzanne Davis, John Kingsmill, John Edington, George Pepperell and Muriel Bennett, *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

**Commemorations of the Week October 12**

Elizabeth Fry (1780-1845), Quaker, a prison reformer and worker for the homeless and other disadvantaged people as an expression of her faith. She was remarkable women and remembered as a small 's' saint in the Anglican calendar.

