

**20<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY after PENTECOST 7 October 2018**

**Sentence.**

Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it. *Mark 10.1*

**Collect of the day.**

God of the living law, whose will is to protect the weak and educate our desires:  
may we learn from you not to dominate or put aside  
but to give each other dignity and find in you our unity;  
through Jesus Christ, who makes us one household. Amen.

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

*Did you know there are two different stories of creation in Genesis 1 and 2, with different starting places and different orders for the creation of animals and humanity? They originate in two different communities. This second account tells of the creation of the man and the woman in an existing garden, Eden meaning 'delight'. No animal proves to be a companion for the human who is neither yet man nor woman. In Hebrew, the name Adam means the ha'dam, the groundling made from the ha'damah or ground. Until there are two earth creatures who stand before one another and recognize each other as equals, "bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh" there is actually neither male nor female. Paul tells us in Galatians 3.28 that in Christ gender is no distinction, nor is race or social status.*

The LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

'This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
this one shall be called Woman,  
for out of Man this one was taken.'  
Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his  
wife, and they become one flesh.

*Genesis 2.18-24*

Reader        Hear the word of the Lord  
ALL            Thanks be to God

Psalm 8 **at 8am** APBA, page 229.

*One of the best known psalms, this song praises God as creator of all that  
is; it echoes the first creation account of Genesis 1 written for recitation  
in the Temple.*

### **A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.**

*Best understood as an anonymous sermon, Hebrews was written to encourage  
an early community to continue in faith and hope, even in hardship. In unique  
imagery, Jesus is presented as the great high priest who fulfills and completes  
the Jewish system of sacrifice. Here, the writer understands that Jesus was  
made a little lower than the angels for a time and shares our humanity to lib-  
erate his sisters and brothers (that is, we humans who are bone of Jesus' bone  
and flesh of Jesus' flesh) to save us from our slavery to the power of death.*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the  
prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom  
he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the  
worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of  
God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.  
When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand  
of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as  
the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. Now God did  
not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to an-  
gels. But someone has testified somewhere,  
'What are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
or mortals, that you care for them?  
You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;  
you have crowned them with glory and honour,

### **COMMEMORATION OF THE WEEK.**

October 12 **Elizabeth Fry** (1780-1845) a Quaker, prison reformer and  
worker for the homeless and other disadvantaged people, as an expres-  
sion of her faith.

leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.' People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. *Mark 10.2-16*

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 SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 5.6-7, 10-15 Ps 90.12-17 Hebrews 4.12-16 Mark 10.17-31

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

subjecting all things under their feet.'

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

*Hebrews 1.1-4, 2.5-12*

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

#### Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia, alleluia!  
Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.

ALL Alleluia, alleluia!  
Reader The Lord be with you  
ALL And also with you  
Reader A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.  
ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

*The Pharisees allowed divorce only on the initiative of the man. Here Jesus asserts the equality of women and men in creation (God's original intention), as part of his teaching in this chapter of the covenantal, egalitarian nature of relationships in the kingdom. Notice Jesus only answers the Pharisees' question when he is with the disciples; he is down in the Judean wilderness where John the Baptist was arrested for criticizing Herod Antipas who had divorced his wife to marry his brother's wife.*

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason a man shall