



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

**Third Sunday after Pentecost
2015**

14 June

Sentence

In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

2 Corinthians

5.19

Prayer of the day.

Lord of the misfit,
whose prophets came
like weeds to an ordered garden,
shaking all that deadens your love:
give us faith in your kingdom's growth,
unruly and exuberant and let it be a shelter
wide enough for all;
through Jesus Christ, our teacher. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

Ezekiel wrote his prophecies in 6th century Babylon during the exile of the Jews from their homeland. Ezekiel's allegory of the cedar tree is a source of the imagery Jesus uses in the parable of the mustard seed.

Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,

and become a noble cedar.
Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.
All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.
I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.
I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

Ezekiel 17.22-24

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

Psalm 92.1-4, 12-15 at 8am APBA, 320 at 10am TiS 50

This psalm reflects one strand of theology, that God rewards the righteous so that they are like fruitful trees. However, there is another strand that recognises that the righteous do not always prosper and the wicked sometimes flourish.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

For Paul, 'being in Christ' is already to be in the new creation which is reversing the harm done to the old creation through Christ's love for us which urges Christians to deeds of love.

Brothers and sisters, we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live

might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5.6-10, 14-17.

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

Comment on the gospel reading.

These two parables invite us to see that God's kingdom is already growing, its seed 'hidden' in the life of Jesus. The contrast between the tiny seed sown in the earth which emerges to become a large plant, is like the tiny beginnings of God's redemptive work which has already and will yet be of cosmic effect.

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia, alleluia!
With many parables Jesus spoke to them,
and they were able to hear 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

Such a large crowd gathered around Jesus that he got into a boat and began to teach them using many parables. Jesus said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

Jesus also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples. *Mark 4.26-34*

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Bible Readings next week 24 June Fourth Sunday after Pentecost.

Job 38.1-11 Ps 107. 1-3, 23-32 2 Corinthians 6.1-13 Mark 4.35-41

Pray for the Faithful Departed Ula Sanderson, Eric Vanden Driesen, Vera Theobald, Joan Jackson, Lillian Lobb, Michael Duffield, Iain Courcoux, Judith McMullen, Harry Hewett, Kristina Smith, Edward Butler *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Prayer of the Week

Lord, we beseech you to keep your family, the Church, in continual godliness, that through your protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve you in good works, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Commemorations of the Week

June 15 – Evelyn Underhill, spiritual writer (1875-1941).

English poet and mystic, who produced many books on mysticism and spirituality; one of them, *Mysticism* (1911) becoming a classic.

