

The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost, Cycle A – Proper 30 (Green) Sunday October 25, 2020

Presiders: the Rev. Andrew Twiddy, the Rev. Christine Muise

Youth Team: Juliette Desvaux, Allison Poole, Evan Matzanke, Luke Desvaux

Readings

DEUTERONOMY 34:1-12

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-8

PSALM 90:1-6, 13-17

MATTHEW 22:34-46

Music for the day:

Hymns from *Common Praise* (1998) or the local parish booklet *Open Wide the Church's Door*

Opening	Open Wide	8	Just as a Mother
Reflective	<i>(oral learning)</i>		Ahavah (Hebrew: "love");
Gospel	~		Where There is Love (tune: CP 553) *
Offertory	Open Wide	14	Take My Gifts
Closing	Open Wide	8	Eternal Wisdom, Timely Friend

Click here on our website → for Music & Lyrics for *Open Wide the Church's Door*

*** Lyrics:**

Where there is love, wherever there is love,
Where there is love, there we find God

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The Collect – the Prayer of the Day:

**Lord of the teasing riddle,
whose questions undo our certainty
and set us on a different path:
give us a heart of passion, a searching mind,
gentle strength of body and unseen depths of soul,
so that we might love you wholly and our neighbour as ourselves;**

through Jesus Christ, the law of grace. Amen.

Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.

A First Reading: A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

A time for grief, and a time for a major transition in the community

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Holy One showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees as far as Zoar.

The Holy One said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there."

Then Moses, the servant of the Holy One, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord's command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Bethpeor, but no one knows his burial place to this day.

Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigour had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites listened him, doing as the Holy One had instructed Moses.

Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Holy One knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Holy One sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Holy word, holy wisdom ~ hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches

The Psalm

VERSE OF THE DAY: From age to age, you are God

- 1 Holy One, you have been our refuge, *
from one generation to another.
2. Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God. R

3. You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth."
4. For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, *
and like a watch in the night.

5. You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
6. In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

- 13 Return, Holy One; how long will you tarry? *
be gracious to your servants.
- 14 Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; *
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

15. Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us, *
and the years in which we suffered adversity.
16. Show your servants your works, *
and your splendour to their children.

- 17 May the graciousness of our God, the Holy One, be upon us; *
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

A Second Reading: FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CHRISTIANS IN ROME

Reader: **“It’s so important to put ourselves into our vocation, heart and soul!”**

A reading from Paul’s letter to the Christian community in Thessalonica (...pause)

8-10 You yourselves know, my dear friends, that our coming to you was not pointless. Although we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you God’s message, in spite of great opposition.

Our appeal to you does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery. Actually, we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, and so we speak up, not to please people, but to please God who tests our hearts.

As you know, and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise for ourselves, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

We were gentle among you, like a mother tenderly caring for her own children.

So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the good news, but also our very own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

(...pause) **Holy word, holy wisdom ~ hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches**

The Gospel Reading:

Reader:

Sometimes you can sum it all up in one sentence. And sometimes, two sentences can be helpful too!

The holy gospel, according to Matthew. *(Glory to you, Jesus, the Anointed One)*

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus said to him,

"'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?"

They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them,

"How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?"

No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom: The Gospel of Christ. ... **Praise to you, Jesus the Anointed One.**

Matthew 22:34-46. NRSV, alt. A. Twiddy

The Simplicity Prayer

*The Prayer Jesus Gave Us,
in the tradition and simplicity of Clare and Francis of Assisi*

~ A Franciscan Lord's Prayer ~

Our Beloved,

Your energy is compassionate and unique.

We want everyone to be aware of this.

We want everything to share in this.

Restore all things,

to be in harmony, on the outside, and on the inside.

Give us what we really need now,

for today, and for each day.

Free us from the harm we have done,

and help us, in our journey of recovery,

to release those who have harmed us.

Keep us safe during our times of distress,

and release us from oppression.

For your purpose, your strength, and your glory,

is to bring together everyone and everything.

We are depending on this. We are committed to this.

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost [Proper 30] (Green)

Sunday, October 25th, 2020

Readings

DEUTERONOMY 34:1-12; PSALM 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-8; MATTHEW 22:34-46

Collect

Lord God our redeemer,
who heard the cry of your people
and sent your servant Moses
to lead them out of slavery,
free us from the tyranny of sin and death,
and by the leading of your Spirit
bring us to our promised land;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees as far as Zoar. The Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord's command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Bethpeor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigour had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended. Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses. Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

DEUTERONOMY 34:1-12

Psalm

REFRAIN From age to age you are God.

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God. R

You turn us back to the dust and say, "Go back, O child of earth."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night. R

You sweep us away like a dream; we fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered. R

Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry? be gracious to your servants.

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us and the years in which we suffered adversity. R

Show your servants your works and your splendour to their children.

May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork. R

PSALM 90:1-6, 13-17

Second Reading

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition.

For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts.

As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children.

So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-8

Gospel

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to

them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

MATTHEW 22:34-46

Prayer over the Gifts

God of constant love,
you have guided your people
in all times and ages.

May we who offer you our praise today
always be ready to follow where you lead;
we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer After Communion

God our guide,
you have fed us with bread from heaven
as you fed the people of Israel.
May we who have been inwardly nourished
be ready to follow you all our days;
we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

From the Message:

2 ¹⁻² So, friends, it's obvious that our visit to you was no waste of time. We had just been given rough treatment in Philippi, as you know, but that didn't slow us down. We were sure of ourselves in God, and went right ahead and said our piece, presenting God's Message to you, defiant of the opposition.

No Hidden Agendas

³⁻⁵ God tested us thoroughly to make sure we were qualified to be trusted with this Message. Be assured that when we speak to you we're not after crowd approval—only God approval. Since we've been put through that battery of tests, you're guaranteed that both we and the Message are free of error, mixed motives, or hidden agendas. We never used words to butter you up. No one knows that better than you. And God knows we never used words as a smoke screen to take advantage of you.

⁶⁻⁸ Even though we had some standing as Christ's apostles, we never threw our weight around or tried to come across as important, with you or anyone else. We weren't aloof with you. We took you just as you were. We were never patronizing, never condescending, but we cared for you the way a mother cares for her children. We loved you dearly. Not content to just pass on the Message, we wanted to give you our hearts. And we *did*.