

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Cycle A – Proper 26 (Green) Sunday September 27, 2020

The Season of Creation, Fourth Sunday *(September 06 – Oct 04, 2020)*

Presider: the Rev. Andrew Twiddy

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

Readings

EXODUS 17:1-7

PSALM 78:1-4, 12-16

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

MATTHEW 21:23-32

Music for the day:

Hymns from *Common Praise* (1998)

Opening	417	Let's Sing Unto the Lord
Reflective	-	Ma-im, Ma-im, Ma-im * (<i>Hebrew: "water"</i>)
At the Gospel	387	All Praise to Thee
At Prayer	500	Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant
Closing	418	Draw the Circle Wide

The Collect – the Prayer of the Day:

**God of our salvation,
we falter before the demands of your word,
and turn away from your call to life.
Pour out your compassion on us, so that we may turn again,
and walk the path of self-emptying love made known in Jesus,
who lives in glory with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Church of the Province of Southern Africa, alt.

A First Reading: A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

When people don't have the basics of life, the situation is ripe for an uprising

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Holy One 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 Holy One?"

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 Holy One, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

The Holy One 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 Holy One, saying, "Is the Holy One among us or not?"

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

EXODUS 17:1-7 ~ NRSV, alt. A. Twiddy

The Psalm

VERSE OF THE DAY: The Holy One split the rocks and gave water to drink

(REFRAIN): (The Holy One split the rocks and gave water to drink)

1 Hear my teaching, O my people;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times. R

3 That which we have heard and known, and what our forebears have told us,
we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come your praise-worthy deeds & your power,
O Holy One, and the wonderful works you have done. R

12 You worked marvels in the sight of their forebears,
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

13 You split open the sea and let them pass through;
you made the waters stand up like walls. R

14 You led them with a cloud by day,
and all the night through with a glow of fire.

15 You split the hard rocks in the wilderness,
and gave them drink as from the great deep.

16 You brought streams out of the cliff,
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

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

Reader: “Have you ever been humbled, and then seen life differently afterwards?”

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

2 ¹⁻⁴ If you’ve gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if Christ’s love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you *care*— then do me a favor:

Agree with each other. Love each other. Be deep-spirited friends.

Don’t push your way to the front; don’t sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don’t be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

⁵⁻⁸ Think of yourselves the way Jesus, the Anointed One, thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn’t think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of divine status, and took on the status of a slave, became *human*!

Having become human, he stayed human.

It was an incredibly humbling process.

He didn’t claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—at the execution-stake.

⁹⁻¹¹ Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before the Anointed One, Jesus, and call out in praise that Jesus is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God.

Rejoicing Together

¹²⁻¹³ What I'm getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you've done from the beginning. When I was living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I'm separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts.

Be energetic in your life of recovery, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is *God's* energy, an energy deep within you, God willing and working at the outcome that will be the most suitable in every way.

(...pause)

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

Philippians 2:1-13, The Message, alt. A. Twiddy

The Gospel Reading:

Reader:

It can take a lot of energy to deal with conflict, and to look for transformation.

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

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."

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

Matthew 21: 23-32. 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.

Comparative information from the official readings listed on Anglican.ca

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost [Proper 26] (Green)

Sunday, September 27th, 2020

The Season of Creation, Fourth Sunday

Readings

EXODUS 17:1-7; PSALM 78:1-4, 12-16; PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13; MATTHEW 21:23-32

Collect

Grant, O merciful God,
that your Church,
being gathered by your Holy Spirit into one,
may show forth your power among all peoples,
to the glory of your name;
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 EXODUS

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?"

EXODUS 17:1-7

Psalm

REFRAIN The Lord split the rocks and gave them drink.

Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times. R

That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come the praise-worthy deeds and the power of the Lord, and the wonderful works he has done. R

He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

He split open the sea and let them pass through; he made the waters stand up like walls. R

He led them with a cloud by day, and all the night through with a glow of fire.

He split the hard rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink as from the great deep.

He brought streams out of the cliff, and the waters gushed out like rivers.

PSALM 78:1-4, 12-16

Second Reading

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS

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.

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

Gospel

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

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