

Sunday 27 September 2020

16th Sunday after Trinity

Proper 21

Collect

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Ezekiel 18.1–4, 25–end

18 The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Psalm 25.1–8

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame,
but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.
- 3 Make me to know your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you have I hoped all the day long.
- 5 Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions,
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.
- 8 He will guide the humble in doing right and teach his way to the lowly.

Philippians 2.1–13

- 2 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
- ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.
- ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- ¹² 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; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Matthew 21.23–32

²³ When he 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?’ ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ 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?”’ ²⁶ But if we say, “Of human origin”, we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’ ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ ‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.”’ ²⁹ He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. ³¹ 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. ³² 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.

Post Communion

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Week Ahead

Today, at 3.30, please join us on the St James’ Facebook page for the ordination service at which Bishop Philip will preside and Andrew Holmes will be ordained deacon.

Monday-Friday

9am Morning Prayer live on St Thomas’ Facebook page
5pm Evening Prayer live on St James’ Facebook page

Tuesday

10.30am Funeral service for Shirley Alderson RIP at St Thomas'

Friday

1.15pm Funeral service for Ian Mawdsley RIP at St Thomas'

Next Sunday

St James' celebrates the **Harvest Festival** at 10.45am. Please bring donations for **RAFT** foodbank and fill one of the collection envelopes for **WATER AID**.

NOTICES

ANNUAL MEETINGS

These will take place during October following our Sunday morning services—please watch out for dates and times. Reports will be available in booklet form in advance to help reduce the length of the meetings. We hope that all members of our church community who are able to will attend. Nomination forms for Churchwarden and PCC are available from PCC secretaries.

St Thomas – Sunday 11 October after the 9.15am service

St James – Sunday 18 October after the 10.45am service

ST THOMAS' HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 11 October. Please bring your donations for **RAFT** foodbank.

BULLETINS

The October bulletin for both St James' and St Thomas' *should* be available from today.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNINGS

Thank you to everyone who supported the **St Thomas' Zoom** coffee morning last week and who pre-ordered, baked and collected cakes. We'll let you know how much we've raised.

St James' Macmillan Coffee morning isn't happening this year but you can **still donate**. Please see the collection box in church or pass a donation on via church.