



Worship at St. Nicholas, Sutton for Trinity 15 on 20 September 2020

Collect, readings & comment on readings

for those unable to attend the 10.30am service in church.

We will be thinking of you all and praying for you
and longing for our future reunion in Church.

Frances

Revd Frances Arnold, Priest-in-Charge

Collect (prayer of the week)

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent
in the fellowship of the gospel
that, always abiding in you,
they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;
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. **Amen.**

Readings

Jonah 3.10-end of 4 *Jonah's Anger & Jonah Is Reproved*

10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

4But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, 'O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' ⁴And the LORD said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

6 The LORD God appointed a bush, * and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

9 But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' ¹⁰Then the LORD said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

Matthew 20.1-16 *The Labourers in the Vineyard*

20'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, * he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" ⁷They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. * ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. * ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." ¹³But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?*" ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?*" ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.*

Comment on the gospel

The landowner appears to be unfair in paying the group of workers who had been hired in the last hour of the day the same as those who had been slaving all day in the heat of the sun.

But the parable is about the kingdom of heaven: the wages stand for God's grace.

God chooses to give the same to all: the landowner pays 'whatever is right.'

There is no hierarchy in heaven. God is generous to all who believe. All true disciples are equal in God's eyes, however and whenever they come to faith.

What matters is God's call to us and our response.

The sermon for Sunday 20 September will be available in paper copy and online soon after the service takes place.

I encourage you to make a habit of daily prayer, whether *A Way of Daily Prayer*
(on website under Useful Information-Service Sheets);
Common Worship *Daily Prayer* [https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-
service-daily-prayer](https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer);
or *Book of Common Prayer*.

Bible readings for Morning and Evening Prayer:

Sunday 20 September Trinity 15

MP Isaiah 45.9-22, Revelation 14.1-5

EP Ezekiel 33.23, 30-34.10, Acts 26.1, 9-25

Monday 21 September Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

MP 1 Kings 19.15-end, 2 Timothy 3.14-end

EP Ecclesiastes 5.4-12, Matthew 19.16-end

Tuesday 22 September

MP 1 Kings 8.63-9.9, Acts 16.25-end

EP Wisdom 7.1-14, Mark 11.12-26

Wednesday 23 September *Ember Day*

MP 1 Kings 10.1-25, Acts 17.1-15

EP Wisdom 7.15-8.4, Mark 11.27-end

Thursday 24 September

MP 1 Kings 11.1-13, Acts 17.16-end

EP Wisdom 8.5-18, Mark 12.1-12

Friday 25 September *Lancelot Andrewes, bishop, spiritual writer, 1626; Ember Day*

MP 1 Kings 11.26-end, Acts 18.1-21

EP Wisdom 8.21-end of 9, Mark 12.13-17

Saturday 26 September *Ember Day*

MP 1 Kings 12.1-24, Acts 18.22-19.7

EP Wisdom 10.15-11.10, Mark 12.18-27