



## **Worship at St. Nicholas, Sutton for Trinity 16 on 27 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)

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. **Amen.**

### **Readings**

**Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-end**

*Individual Retribution*

18The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What 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'? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know 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? <sup>26</sup>When 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. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet 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. <sup>31</sup>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? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

**Philippians 2.1-13**

*Imitating Christ's Humility; Shining as Lights in the World*

<sup>2</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was <sup>\*</sup> in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> 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; <sup>13</sup>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***The Authority of Jesus Questioned; The Parable of the Two Sons*

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?' <sup>24</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>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?" <sup>26</sup>But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' <sup>27</sup>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." <sup>29</sup>He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father\* went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>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.

**Comment on the gospel**

In the final week of his earthly life, Jesus tells the Sanhedrin (chief priests and the elders) this parable of the Two Sons. People whose daily life did not seem compatible with following God have changed their minds and their lifestyle and have turned to God (like the first son), while the authorities, (like the second son), have worshipped in the Temple and kept up appearances but do not believe the message about repentance and about the Messiah. Jesus calls them to account.

*The sermon for Sunday 27 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>;  
or *Book of Common Prayer*.

Bible readings for Morning and Evening Prayer:

**Sunday 27 September** Trinity 16

MP Isaiah 48.12-21, Luke 11.37-54

EP Ezekiel 37.15-end, 1 John 2.22-end

**Monday 28 September**

MP 1 Kings 12.25-13.10, Acts 19.8-20

EP Wisdom 11.21-12.2, Mark 12.28-34

**Tuesday 29 September** Michael and All Angels

MP Tobit 12.6-end, Acts 12.1-11

EP Daniel 10.4-end, Revelation 5

**Wednesday 30 September**

MP 1 Kings 17, Acts 20.1-16

EP Wisdom 13.1-9, Mark 13.1-13

**Thursday 1 October**

MP 1 Kings 18.1-20, Acts 20.17-end

EP Wisdom 16.15-17.1, Mark 13.14-23

**Friday 2 October**

MP 1 Kings 18.21-end, Acts 21.1-16

EP Wisdom 18.6-19, Mark 13.24-31

**Saturday 3 October**

MP 1 Kings 19, Acts 21.17-36

EP Wisdom 19, Mark 13.32-end