



Worship at St. Nicholas, Sutton, for Harvest Trinity 17 on 4 October 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)

Eternal God,
you crown the year with your goodness
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
grant that we may use them to your glory,
for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being;
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

Deuteronomy 8.7-18

A Warning Not to Forget God in Prosperity

⁷For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. ¹⁰You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

¹¹Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. ¹²When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous* snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, ¹⁶and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you

good. ¹⁷Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' ¹⁸But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

2 Corinthians 9.6-15

The Collection for Christians at Jerusalem

6 The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness* endures for ever.'

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.* ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Luke 12.16-30

The Parable of the Rich Fool; Do Not Worry

¹⁶Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" ¹⁸Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."²⁰But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

22 He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵And can any of you by worrying

add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;* yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, strive for his* kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

Comment on the gospel

The man in this week's parable built barn after barn so that he could stockpile vast amounts of grain. That way he could be sure that he would have enough.

As he surveyed his barns heaving with crops, he said to himself, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."

But things don't always go according to plan. In the story God answers, "Fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.

What lesson can we take from this at Harvest time? The effects of climate change and covid are exacerbating food inequality in the world and the consequences will impact on us all. The passage reminds us that we have a common responsibility to one another: the treasures of God are not only for ourselves.

The sermon for Sunday 4 October 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 4 October Trinity 17

MP Isaiah 49.13-23, Luke 12.1-12

EP Proverbs 2.1-11, 1 John 2.1-17

Monday 5 October

MP 1 Kings 21, Acts 21.37-22.21

EP 1 Maccabees 1.1-19, Mark 14.1-11

Tuesday 6 October *William Tyndale, translator, martyr, 1536*

MP 1 Kings 22.1-28, Acts 22.22-23.11

EP 1 Maccabees 1.20-40, Mark 14.12-25

Wednesday 7 October

MP 1 Kings 22.29-45, Acts 23.12-end
EP 1 Maccabees 1.41-end, Mark 14.26-42

Thursday 8 October

MP 2 Kings 1.2-17, Acts 24.1-23
EP 1 Maccabees 2.1-28, Mark 14.43-52

Friday 9 October

MP 2 Kings 2.1-18, Acts 24.24-25.12
EP 1 Maccabees 2.29-48, Mark 14.53-65

Saturday 10 October *Paulinus, bishop, missionary 644*

MP 2 Kings 4.1-37, Acts 25.13-end
EP 1 Maccabees 2.49-end, Mark 14.66-end