

27 SEPTEMBER 2020

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10.00 AM—FRIDAY EUCHARIST

8.30AM— SUNDAY EUCHARIST

ST JOHN
THE BAPTIST
— EST. 1888 —
ANGLICAN CHURCH

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SERVICES

The next Friday service will be held on Friday 2nd of October at 10.00am.

The next Sunday service will be a combined service at 8.30am on Sunday 4th October.

Pre-registration is not required for the Friday service, but is for the Sunday service. Please register online at <https://stjohnsbulimba.org/what-we-do/online-worship/> or call Felicity Scott on 0431 599 662 by Friday 2nd at 10.00 to make your booking for the Sunday service. We cannot guarantee you a seat if you have not booked, due to limitation on numbers. At recent services we have had room for more attendees so please come even if you have not booked.

A Prayer in the Midst of a Crisis

*Holy God, who created us for and from love,
in this time of social distancing, hold us close in your arms.
Comfort those who are afraid, enliven those who are bored,
give courage to those who are distressed,
and warm those who feel the cold touch of loneliness.*

*Breathe in, with and through us as we walk through uncertainty into a new future
knowing that you are with us now and await us there.*

In the name of Christ the Beloved we pray.

Amen.

By the Rev. Canon Dr. Ellen Clark-King, Vice Dean and Canon for Social Justice at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

**Locum: Fr Terry Booth
(Sunday, Tuesday, Friday)**

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THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:

Come, let us return to the Lord, that we may live before him. *Hosea 6.1a, 2b*

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

Grant, O merciful God, that your people may have that mind that was in Christ Jesus, who emptied himself, and took the form of a servant, and in humility became obedient even to death. For you have highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, Jesus Christ, the Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in everlasting glory. **Amen.**

1ST READING: EXODUS 17.1-7

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?'

PSALM 78.1-4, 11-16

1. Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,**
3. things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.
- 4. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.**
11. They forgot what he had done, and the miracles that he had shown them.
- 12. In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.**
13. He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap.
- 14. In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all night long with a fiery light.**

15. He split rocks open in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.

16. He made streams come out of the rock, and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 2. 1-13

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.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21. 23-32

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?' 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.

Reflection:

Having sent ten plagues to the people of Egypt, God tests the Israelites ten times as they travel through the wilderness of the Sinai Peninsula to see if they will remain faithful. This time water has run out. The Israelites are seriously peeved with Moses' leadership – the Hebrew word translated as 'quarrelled' really means 'took legal action against'. Moses shrugs it all off, seeing it as the people complaining against God, rather than against him. So God tells Moses to take his staff and strike it against the rock at Horeb. The people's need is answered by their ever-providing God as water gushes out of the rock.

Pray that as we wander through times of spiritual desolation we will be alert to God giving us spiritual water from which to drink.

Give thanks for the work and witness of the Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, the Most Rev Geoff Smith, and for the General Secretary of the General Synod, Anne Hywood, and the staff in the General Synod Office.

Text: Robert McLean

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THE ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:

IN THE WORLD: -

- ◇ **The Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan:** †Ezekiel Kumir Kondo - Archbishop of the Province of Sudan & Bishop of Khartoum
- ◇ **The Diocese of Willochra:** †John Stead; Clergy and People

IN THE DIOCESE:-

- ◇ **The Parish of Boonah-Harrisville:** Helen Paget
- ◇ **Second Year Formation Students:** Melissa Conway, Gemma Dashwood, Lorraine Lynch, Gary Tognola, Loretta Tyler-Moss

LOCALLY: WE PRAY FOR those who are on holidays from school and work, for those travelling and visiting parts of Queensland.

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Bronwyn, Duncan Family, Kerrie, Roselee, Steph and Chris, Kerry, Gloria, Joseph, Linda, Elizabeth, Bernie, Don, Andrea, Graham, Pat, Peter.

In Memory, September 27—October 3

Cecil George Wilmot Mason 1977

Alf (Dadan) Smithers 2003