

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, August 25, 2019

The Collect: Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Track 1 Old Testament: Jeremiah 1:4-10 read from the International Children's Bible

4 The Lord spoke these words to me:

5 “Before I made you in your mother’s womb, I chose you.

Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work.

I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

6 Then I said, “But Lord God, I don’t know how to speak. I am only a boy.”

7 But the Lord said to me, “Don’t say, ‘I am only a boy.’ You must go everywhere that I send you. You must say everything I tell you to say. 8 Don’t be afraid of anyone, because I am with you. I will protect you,” says the Lord.

9 Then the Lord reached out with his hand and touched my mouth. He said to me, “See, I am putting my words in your mouth. 10 Today I have put you in charge of nations and kingdoms. You will pull up and tear down, destroy and overthrow. You will build up and plant.”

The Word of the Lord

Track 2 Old Testament: Isaiah 58:9b-14 read from The International Children's Bible

“You should stop making trouble for others.

You should stop using cruel words and pointing your finger at others.

10 You should feed those who are hungry.

You should take care of the needs of those who are troubled.

Then your light will shine in the darkness.

And you will be bright like sunshine at noon.

11 The Lord will always lead you.

He will satisfy your needs in dry lands.

He will give strength to your bones.

You will be like a garden that has much water.

You will be like a spring that never runs dry.

12 Your people will rebuild the old cities that are now in ruins.

You will rebuild the foundations of these ancient cities.

You will be known for repairing the broken places.

You will be known for rebuilding the roads and houses.

13 "You must obey God's law about the Sabbath.

You must not do what pleases yourselves on that holy day.

You should call the Sabbath a joyful day.

You should honor the Lord's holy day.

You should honor it by not doing whatever you please on that day.

You should not say whatever you please on that day.

14 Then you will find joy in the Lord.

And I, the Lord, will carry you to the high places above the earth.

I will let you eat the crops of the land your ancestor Jacob had."

The Lord has said these things.

The Word of the Lord

Track 1 Psalm:71:1-6 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; *

let me never be ashamed.

2 In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; *

incline your ear to me and save me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; *

you are my crag and my stronghold.

4 Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, *

from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

5 For you are my hope, O Lord God, *

my confidence since I was young.

6 I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;

from my mother's womb you have been my strength; *
my praise shall be always of you.

Track 2 Psalm 103:1-8 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.
- 3 He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

Epistle: Hebrews 12:18-29 read from the King James Bible

- 18 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,
- 19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:
- 20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:
- 21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)
- 22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly

Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

29 For our God is a consuming fire.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17 read from the Lexham English Bible

10 Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. 11 And behold, a woman was there who had a spirit that had disabled her for eighteen years, and she was bent over and not able to straighten herself up completely. 12 And when he saw her, Jesus summoned her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your disability!" 13 And he placed his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and glorified God. 14 But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, answered and said to the crowd, "There are six days on which it is necessary to work. Therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the day of the Sabbath!" 15 But the Lord answered and said to him, "Hypocrites! Does not each one of you untie his ox or his donkey from the feeding trough on the Sabbath and lead it away to water it? 16 And this woman, who is a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound eighteen long years—is it not necessary that she be released from this bond on the day of the Sabbath?" 17 And when he said these things, all those who opposed him were humiliated, and the whole crowd was rejoicing

at all the splendid things that were being done by him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Closing Prayer: On August 29th we remember John Bunyan, Writer. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.

Bunyan was born in 1628 at Elstow in Bedfordshire, England. Little is known about his early life. His parents were poor; his father was a brazier, a trade that Bunyan also followed for a time. Bunyan had little to no formal education, and he may have learned to read English from reading the Bible. He served as a soldier in the Parliamentary army during the English Civil War, after which he married. His wife introduced him to Arthur Dent's *Plain Man's Pathway to Heaven* and Bishop Lewis Bayly's *Practice of Piety*, devotional books that set him on the religious path.

In 1653, he was baptized in the Bedford Baptist (Independent) Church, and was soon thereafter recognized as a preacher, a vocation at which he excelled. He claimed to have had visions similar to those of Teresa of Avila. After the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660, Bunyan was targeted and slandered by the new royalist government, along with many others who had supported the revolutionary cause during the Civil War. Under the laws of the restored Stuart regime, congregational meeting houses were closed and citizens were required to attend their Anglican parishes. It was punishable by law for anyone, except those who had been ordained according to Anglican orders, to conduct services or preach. Bunyan was arrested while preaching in 1660 and spent most of the next twelve years imprisoned in Bedford.

While imprisoned, Bunyan wrote the first part of his most famous work, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, an allegorical story that was completed in 1684. *The Pilgrim's Progress* tells the story of Christian, a lonely pilgrim who must cross such treacherous terrain as the Slough of Despond and the River of Death before finally reaching the Land of Beulah. Along with John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, it was one of the most influential works of the seventeenth century, and retained its influence for several centuries thereafter. Bunyan died August 31st, 1688.

Let us pray: God of peace, you called John Bunyan to be valiant for truth: Grant that we, having endured as strangers and pilgrims on this earth, may at last rejoice with all the faithful in your heavenly city; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**