

## **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost , October 04, 2020**

**The Collect:** Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Track 1 Old Testament: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 read from the Modern English Version Bible**

20 Now God spoke all these words, saying:

2 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3 You shall have no other gods before Me.

4 You shall not make for yourself any graven idol, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water below the earth.

7 You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold guiltless anyone who takes His name in vain.

8 Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

13 You shall not murder.

14 You shall not commit adultery.

15 You shall not steal.

16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.

18 All the people witnessed the thunder and the lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood at a distance.

19 They said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, lest we die."

20 Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, so that the fear of Him may be before you so that you do not sin."

### **The Word of the Lord**

#### **Track 1 Psalm 19 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, \*

and the firmament shows his handiwork.

2 One day tells its tale to another, \*

and one night imparts knowledge to another.

3 Although they have no words or language, \*

and their voices are not heard,

4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, \*

and their message to the ends of the world.

5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; \*

it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens

and runs about to the end of it again; \*

nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect

and revives the soul; \*

the testimony of the Lord is sure

and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 The statutes of the Lord are just

and rejoice the heart; \*

the commandment of the Lord is clear

and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean  
and endures for ever; \*  
the judgments of the Lord are true  
and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,  
more than much fine gold, \*  
sweeter far than honey,  
than honey in the comb.

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \*  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how often he offends? \*  
cleanse me from my secret faults.

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;  
let them not get dominion over me; \*  
then shall I be whole and sound,  
and innocent of a great offense.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my  
heart be acceptable in your sight, \*  
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

**Track 2 Old Testament: Isaiah 5:1-7 read from the Modern English Version Bible**

5 Now I will sing to my well-beloved a song of my beloved  
concerning His vineyard:  
My well-beloved has a vineyard  
in a very fruitful hill.

2 And He fenced it, and removed its stones,  
and planted it with the choicest vine.  
And He built a tower in the midst of it,  
and also made a winepress in it;  
and He expected it to bring forth good grapes,  
but it brought forth wild grapes.

3 Now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah,  
judge between My vineyard and Me.

4 What more could have been done to My vineyard  
that I have not done in it?

Why, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes,  
did it bring forth wild grapes?

5 So now I will tell you  
what I will do to My vineyard:

I will take away its hedge,  
and it shall be consumed;

I will break down its wall,  
and it shall be trodden down.

6 And I will lay it waste:

It shall not be pruned or dug,  
but briars and thorns shall come up.

I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain on it.

7 For the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts

is the house of Israel,  
and the men of Judah  
His pleasant plant.

Thus He looked for justice, but saw oppression;  
for righteousness, but heard a cry.

### **The Word of the Lord**

### **Track 2 Psalm 80:7-14 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt; \*

you cast out the nations and planted it.

9 You prepared the ground for it; \*

it took root and filled the land.

10 The mountains were covered by its shadow \*  
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

11 You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea \*  
and its branches to the River.

12 Why have you broken down its wall, \*  
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, \*  
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

14 Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;  
behold and tend this vine; \*  
preserve what your right hand has planted.

### **Epistle: Philippians 3:4b-14 read from the New American Standard Bible**

If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

### **The Word of the Lord**

## **Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46 read from the New Century Version Bible**

33 “Listen to this story: There was a man who owned a vineyard. He put a wall around it and dug a hole for a winepress and built a tower. Then he leased the land to some farmers and left for a trip. 34 When it was time for the grapes to be picked, he sent his servants to the farmers to get his share of the grapes. 35 But the farmers grabbed the servants, beat one, killed another, and then killed a third servant with stones. 36 So the man sent some other servants to the farmers, even more than he sent the first time. But the farmers did the same thing to the servants that they had done before. 37 So the man decided to send his son to the farmers. He said, ‘They will respect my son.’ 38 But when the farmers saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This son will inherit the vineyard. If we kill him, it will be ours!’ 39 Then the farmers grabbed the son, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 So what will the owner of the vineyard do to these farmers when he comes?”

41 The priests and leaders said, “He will surely kill those evil men. Then he will lease the vineyard to some other farmers who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”

42 Jesus said to them, “Surely you have read this in the Scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected

became the cornerstone.

The Lord did this,

and it is wonderful to us.’ Psalm 118:22–23

43 “So I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to people who do the things God wants in his kingdom. 44 The person who falls on this stone will be broken, and on whomever that stone falls, that person will be crushed.”

45 When the leading priests and the Pharisees heard these stories, they knew Jesus was talking about them. 46 They wanted to arrest him, but they were afraid of the people, because the people believed that Jesus was a prophet.

## **The Gospel of the Lord**

**Closing Prayer: On October 10 we celebrate the life of Vida Dutton Scudder, Educator and Witness for Peace. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.**

Vida Dutton Scudder exemplifies the marriage of contemplation and action within an engaged Christian spirituality. As a contemplative laywoman, Scudder was a champion for

peace, social action, and women throughout her life.

Scudder was born on December 15, 1861, the child of Congregationalist missionaries in India. In the 1870s, Vida and her mother were prepared for confirmation in The Episcopal Church by Phillips Brooks, then Rector of Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston, and later Bishop of Massachusetts. After studying English literature at Smith College and Oxford University, Scudder began teaching at Wellesley College. Her love of scholarship was matched by her social conscience and deep spirituality. As a young woman, Scudder founded the College Settlements Association, joined the Society of Christian Socialists, and, in 1889, began a lifelong association with the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross, a community living in the world and devoted to intercessory prayer.

In 1893, Scudder took a leave of absence from Wellesley to work with Helena Stuart Dudley in founding Denison House in Boston, a “college settlement,” where wealthy college-educated women provided social services to poor immigrant neighbors, in conversation with the local parish priest. Stresses from teaching and her activism led to a breakdown in 1901. After two years’ recuperation in Italy, she returned renewed and became even more active in Church and socialist groups; she started a group for Italian immigrants at Denison House and took an active part in organizing the Women’s Trade Union League. In 1911, Scudder founded The Episcopal Church Socialist League, and formally joined the Socialist party. Her support of the Lawrence, Massachusetts, textile workers’ strike in 1912 drew a great deal of criticism and threatened her teaching position. Though she initially supported World War I, she joined the Fellowship of Reconciliation in 1923, and by the 1930s was a firm pacifist.

Throughout her life, Scudder’s primary relationships and support network were women. After retirement, she authored 16 books on religious and political subjects, combining her intense activism with an equally vibrant spirituality. “If prayer is the deep secret creative force that Jesus tells us it is, we should be very busy with it,” she wrote characteristically, adding that there was one sure way “of directly helping on the Kingdom of God. That way is prayer. Social intercession may be the mightiest force in the world.” Vida Scudder died on October 9, 1954.

**Let us pray:** Most gracious God, you sent your beloved Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Raise up in your Church witnesses who, after the example of your servant Vida Dutton Scudder, stand firm in proclaiming the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**