

## **Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 29**

**The Collect:** Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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 Song of Solomon 2:8-13 read from the Message**

8-10 Look! Listen! There's my lover!

Do you see him coming?

Vaulting the mountains,

leaping the hills.

My lover is like a gazelle, graceful;

like a young stag, virile.

Look at him there, on tiptoe at the gate,

all ears, all eyes—ready!

My lover has arrived

and he's speaking to me!

11-13 Get up, my dear friend,

fair and beautiful lover—come to me!

Look around you: Winter is over;

the winter rains are over, gone!

Spring flowers are in blossom all over.

The whole world's a choir—and singing!

Spring warblers are filling the forest

with sweet strains.

Lilacs are exuberantly purple and perfumed,

and cherry trees fragrant with blossoms.

Oh, get up, dear friend,

my fair and beautiful lover—come to me!

Come, my shy and modest dove—

leave your seclusion, come out in the open.

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people**

## **Track 1 Psalm 45:1-2, 7-10 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

1 My heart is stirring with a noble song;

let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; \*

my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.

2 You are the fairest of men; \*

grace flows from your lips,

because God has blessed you for ever.

7 Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, \*

a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom;

you love righteousness and hate iniquity.

8 Therefore God, your God, has anointed you \*

with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

9 All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, \*

and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.

10 Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the court; \*

on your right hand is the queen,

adorned with the gold of Ophir.

## **Track 2 Old Testament: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 read from the Message**

4 1-2 Now listen, Israel, listen carefully to the rules and regulations that I am teaching you to follow so that you may live and enter and take possession of the land that God, the God-of-Your-Fathers, is giving to you. Don't add a word to what I command you, and don't remove a word from it. Keep the commands of God, your God, that I am commanding you.

5-6 Pay attention: I'm teaching you the rules and regulations that God commanded me, so that you may live by them in the land you are entering to take up ownership. Keep them. Practice them. You'll become wise and understanding. When people hear and see what's going on, they'll say, "What a great nation! So wise, so understanding! We've never seen anything like it."

7-8 Yes. What other great nation has gods that are intimate with them the way God, our

God, is with us, always ready to listen to us? And what other great nation has rules and regulations as good and fair as this Revelation that I'm setting before you today?

9 Just make sure you stay alert. Keep close watch over yourselves. Don't forget anything of what you've seen. Don't let your heart wander off. Stay vigilant as long as you live. Teach what you've seen and heard to your children and grandchildren.

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people**

**Track 2 Psalm 15 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*

who may abide upon your holy hill?

2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*

who speaks the truth from his heart.

3 There is no guile upon his tongue;

he does no evil to his friend; \*

he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*

but he honors those who fear the Lord.

5 He has sworn to do no wrong \*

and does not take back his word.

6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*

nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

7 Whoever does these things \*

shall never be overthrown.

**The Epistle: James 1:17-27 read from the Modern English Version Bible**

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom is no change or shadow of turning. 18 Of His own will He brought us forth with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.

19 Therefore, my beloved brothers, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow

to anger, 20 for the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God. 21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and remaining wickedness and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man viewing his natural face in a mirror.

24 He views himself, and goes his way, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

25 But whoever looks into the perfect law of liberty, and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this man will be blessed in his deeds.

26 If anyone among you seems to be religious and does not bridle his tongue, but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is vain. 27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people**

**Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 read from the New American Standard Bible**

7 The Pharisees and some of the scribes \*gathered to Him after they came from Jerusalem, 2 and saw that some of His disciples were eating their bread with unholy hands, that is, unwashed. 3 (For the Pharisees and all the other Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, thereby holding firmly to the tradition of the elders; 4 and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they completely cleanse themselves; and there are many other things which they have received as traditions to firmly hold, such as the washing of cups, pitchers, and copper pots.) 5 And the Pharisees and the scribes \*asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk in accordance with the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with unholy hands?" 6 But He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written:

'This people honors Me with their lips,  
But their heart is far away from Me.

7 And in vain do they worship Me,

Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

8 Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."

14 After He called the crowd to Him again, He began saying to them, "Listen to Me, all of you, and understand: 15 there is nothing outside the person which can defile him if it goes into him; but the things which come out of the person are what defile the person."

21 For from within, out of the hearts of people, come the evil thoughts, acts of sexual immorality, thefts, murders, acts of adultery, 22 deeds of greed, wickedness, deceit, indecent behavior, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within and defile the person."

### **The Gospel of the Lord**

#### **Closing Prayer: On September 4 we celebrate the life of Paul Jones, read from A Great Cloud of Witnesses.**

Paul Jones was born in 1880 in the rectory of St. Stephen's Church, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. After graduating from Yale University and the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, he accepted a call to serve a mission in Logan, Utah. In 1914, Paul Jones was appointed Archdeacon of the Missionary District of Utah and, later that year, was elected its Bishop. Meanwhile, World War I had begun.

As Bishop of Utah, Paul Jones did much to expand the Church's mission stations and to strengthen diocesan institutions. At the same time, he spoke openly about his opposition to war. With the entry of the United States into the war, the Bishop of Utah's views became increasingly controversial. At a meeting of the Fellowship of Reconciliation in Los Angeles in 1917, Bishop Jones expressed his belief that "war is unchristian," for which he was attacked with banner headlines in the Utah press.

As a result of the speech and the reaction it caused in Utah, a commission of the House of Bishops was appointed to investigate the situation. In their report, the commission

concluded that “The underlying contention of the Bishop of Utah seems to be that war is unchristian. With this general statement the Commission cannot agree ” The report went on to recommend that “The Bishop of Utah ought to resign his office,” thus rejecting Paul Jones’ right to object to war on grounds of faith and conscience.

In the spring of 1918, Bishop Jones, yielding to pressure, resigned as Bishop of Utah. In his farewell to the Missionary District of Utah in 1918, Bishop Jones said: “Where I serve the Church is of small importance, so long as I can make my life count in the cause of Christ. Expediency may make necessary the resignation of a bishop at this time, but no expedience can ever justify the degradation of the ideals of the episcopate which these conclusions seem to involve.”

For the rest of his life, he continued a ministry within the Church dedicated to peace and conscience, speaking always with a conviction and gentleness rooted in the gospel. Bishop Jones died on September 4, 1941.

**Let us pray:** Merciful God, you sent your beloved Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Raise up in this and every land witnesses who, after the example of your servant Paul Jones, will stand firm in proclaiming the Gospel of the Prince of Peace, our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**