

## Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, Aug. 31

The Collect and Psalms will be read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer  
The Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel will be read from the Revised Standard Version Bible

**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: Jeremiah 2:4-13

4 Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel.

5 Thus says the Lord:

“What wrong did your fathers find in me

that they went far from me,

and went after worthlessness, and became worthless?

6 They did not say, ‘Where is the Lord

who brought us up from the land of Egypt,

who led us in the wilderness,

in a land of deserts and pits,

in a land of drought and deep darkness,

in a land that none passes through,

where no man dwells?’

7 And I brought you into a plentiful land

to enjoy its fruits and its good things.

But when you came in you defiled my land,

and made my heritage an abomination.

8 The priests did not say, ‘Where is the Lord?’

Those who handle the law did not know me;

the rulers transgressed against me;  
the prophets prophesied by Ba'al,  
and went after things that do not profit.

9 "Therefore I still contend with you,  
says the Lord,  
and with your children's children I will contend.

10 For cross to the coasts of Cyprus and see,  
or send to Kedar and examine with care;  
see if there has been such a thing.

11 Has a nation changed its gods,  
even though they are no gods?  
But my people have changed their glory  
for that which does not profit.

12 Be appalled, O heavens, at this,  
be shocked, be utterly desolate,  
says the Lord,

13 for my people have committed two evils:  
they have forsaken me,  
the fountain of living waters,  
and hewed out cisterns for themselves,  
broken cisterns,  
that can hold no water.

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

**Track 1 Psalm: Psalm 81:1, 10-16**

1 Sing with joy to God our strength \*He  
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

10 I am the Lord your God,  
who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said, \*  
"Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it."

11 And yet my people did not hear my voice, \*

and Israel would not obey me.

12 So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts, \*  
to follow their own devices.

13 Oh, that my people would listen to me! \*  
that Israel would walk in my ways!

14 I should soon subdue their enemies \*  
and turn my hand against their foes.

15 Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him, \*  
and their punishment would last for ever.

16 But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat \*  
and satisfy him with honey from the rock.

## **Track 2 Old Testament: Sirach 10:12-18 or Proverbs 25:6-7**

12 The beginning of man's pride is to depart from the Lord;  
his heart has forsaken his Maker.

13 For the beginning of pride is sin,  
and the man who clings to it pours out abominations.

Therefore the Lord brought upon them extraordinary afflictions,  
and destroyed them utterly.

14 The Lord has cast down the thrones of rulers,  
and has seated the lowly in their place.

15 The Lord has plucked up the roots of the nations,  
and has planted the humble in their place.

16 The Lord has overthrown the lands of the nations,  
and has destroyed them to the foundations of the earth.

17 He has removed some of them and destroyed them,  
and has extinguished the memory of them from the earth.

18 Pride was not created for men,  
nor fierce anger for those born of women.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

## **Proverbs 25: 6 – 7**

6 Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence  
or stand in the place of the great;

7 for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
than to be put lower in the presence of the prince.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

## **Track 2 Psalm: Psalm 112**

1 Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord \*  
and have great delight in his commandments!

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; \*  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, \*  
and their righteousness will last for ever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \*  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending \*  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

6 For they will never be shaken; \*  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; \*  
their heart is right;  
they put their trust in the Lord.

8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, \*  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

9 They have given freely to the poor, \*  
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.

10 The wicked will see it and be angry;  
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; \*

the desires of the wicked will perish.

### **Epistle Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**

13 Let brotherly love continue. 2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. 3 Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them; and those who are ill-treated, since you also are in the body. 4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for God will judge the immoral and adulterous. 5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never fail you nor forsake you." 6 Hence we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper,  
I will not be afraid;  
what can man do to me?"

7 Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.

15 Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. 16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

### **Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14**

14 One sabbath when he went to dine at the house of a ruler who belonged to the Pharisees, they were watching him.

7 Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he marked how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, 8 "When you are invited by any one to a marriage feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest a more eminent man than you be invited by him; 9 and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you will

begin with shame to take the lowest place. 10 But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. 11 For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

12 He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return, and you be repaid. 13 But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

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

**On September 3 we celebrate the life of Prudence Crandall, Teacher and Prophetic Witness. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.**

Born to a Quaker family in Rhode Island in 1803, Prudence Crandall was educated in arithmetic, the sciences, and Latin at the New England Friends' Boarding School in Rhode Island. The Religious Society of Friends, or "Quakers," believed that women should be educated, and it was in the environment of the Friends' Boarding School that Prudence Crandall's passion for teaching was first awakened.

In 1831, Crandall started a girl's school in Canterbury, Connecticut, where she educated the daughters of the town's wealthy families. In 1833 she admitted to her school a young African American girl named Sarah Harris, who wanted an education so that she could in turn teach other African American children. The parents of the white children at Crandall's school were outraged and demanded Harris's expulsion, but Crandall refused and decided to open a new school for African American girls.

Despite repeated attempts by town members to close the school, and even threats to destroy it, Crandall persevered in her labors. She enlisted the help of William Lloyd Garrison, editor of *The Liberator*, the nation's major antislavery newspaper. Through his paper and advocacy, Garrison spread awareness of her cause all over the nation.

However, later in 1833, the state legislature passed the so-called "Black Law," which made it a crime to open a school that taught African American children from any state other than Connecticut.

Crandall, who had received pupils from other states, was arrested, jailed, and tried. She was eventually convicted, but a higher court reversed the decision. Far from subsiding, the harassment she endured grew worse, and, fearing for the safety of her students, she closed her school in 1834, and settled with her husband in LaSalle County, Illinois, on a farm. She opened a school there, and worked for Women's Suffrage and the Temperance movement.

After her husband died in 1874, Crandall moved to Elk Falls, Kansas. In 1886 a petition endorsed by Mark Twain and signed by more than a hundred citizens of that state, expressing their regret and shame over her treatment, persuaded the Connecticut state legislature to award her a pension. Prudence Crandall died in 1890, and today she is recognized as the official State Heroine of Connecticut.

**Let us pray:** God, the wellspring of justice and strength: We thank you for raising up in Prudence Crandall a belief in education and a resolute will to teach girls of every color and race, that, alongside her, they might take their place in working for the nurture and well-being of all society, undaunted by prejudice or adversity. Grant that we, following her example, may participate in the work of building up the human family in Christ, your Word and Wisdom; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**