Trinity 15, Proper 20, Year A, 20.09.2020

*Are you right to be angry?*

*Matthew 20.1-16*

* *Jesus tells a parable about the owner of a vineyard.*
* *The owner is concerned to hire as many workers as possible, all through the day.*
* *The owner pays all his workers the same, irrespective of when they started work.*

**Welcome and introduction**

Gathering Prayer:

We come to you now with love in our hearts,  
praise on our lips, intent on worship.  
We come to offer our time and our thoughts to you.  
We come to receive your comfort and your challenge for us.  
Lord, unite our prayers and our worship,  
that your name may be glorified.   
**Amen.**

**Hymn Here I am to worship**

Light of the world you stepped down into darkness  
opened my eyes, let me see beauty that made this heart adore you, hope of a life spent with you  
  
*Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that you're my God.  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me*  
King of all days oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above.  
Humbly you came to the earth you created, all for love's sake became poor  
  
I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross

Prayer of Confession

For the times when we have not lived in a manner   
worthy of the gospel of Christ,

Dear God: **forgive us.**  
  
For the times when we have not stood firm   
to your kingdom values,

Dear God: **forgive us.**  
  
For the times when we have not united in the Spirit,

Dear God: **forgive us.**  
  
For the times we have heard your call   
but turned away from you,

Dear God: **forgive us.**  
  
For the times we have not celebrated your goodness and love,

Dear God: **forgive us.**  
  
We are sorry that we do not always listen,  
do not always hear, do not always obey;  
and we ask for discernment,   
courage and strength to be faithful to you.   
**Amen.**

**The Absolution**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

**The****Collect***, the special prayer for today*

Lord God,  
defend your Church from all false teaching  
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,  
that we may enjoy eternal life  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Reading** Matthew 20: 1-16

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, “You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, “Why are you standing here idle all day?” They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

**Address**

**Hymn All I once held dear**

All I once held dear, built my life upon, all this world reveres and wars to own  
all I once thought gain I have counted loss, spent and worthless now, compared to this

Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you. There is no greater thing:  
you’re my all, you’re the best, you’re my joy, my righteousness and I love you, Lord

Now my heart’s desire is to know you more, to be found in you and known as yours.  
To possess by faith what I could not earn, all surpassing gift of righteousness

Oh to know the power of your risen life and to know you in your sufferings,  
to become like you in your death, my Lord, so with you to live and never die.

**Bless the Gifts**

Lord Jesus, you gave everything for us.  
As we offer you our gifts, we offer you all that we have, and are, and will be,  
praying that our church, and our mission,  
may reach out so that others may come to share in your risen life. **Amen.**

**Prayers**

We pray for all those who struggle to find regular work,   
and for those who are overworked in ‘sweatshops’.   
We pray for those who struggle to ‘make ends meet’,  
because they are low paid.

**Loving God, we pray for the coming of your kingdom   
when all will be rewarded for their labours with generosity.**  
We pray for those who are looking for jobs,  
for those who work in job centres,  
and for all who offer careers advice, help and support.

**Loving God, we pray for the coming of your kingdom   
when all will be valued for who they are rather than for what they do.**  
We pray for those in dangerous jobs:  
for the emergency services,  
for all whose work brings them close to real dangers every day,  
and for all who have been injured through their work,  
or whose health has been adversely affected.

**Loving God, we pray for the coming of your kingdom   
when all will be safe and secure and will be healed and made whole in you.  
Hear our prayers, in the name of Jesus.  
Amen.**

*We sing the* ***Lord’s* *Prayer***

**Our Father who art in heaven HBTN**

**Thy kingdom come thy will be done HBTN**

**On earth as it is in heaven HBTN**

**Give us this day our daily bread HBTN**

**Forgive us all our trespasses HBTN**

**As we forgive those who trespass against us HBTN**

**And lead us not into temptation HBTN**

**But deliver us from all that is evil HBTN**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory HBTN**

**For ever and for ever and ever HBTN**

Loving God,   
sometimes we feel that things are not fair.

Some have plenty;   
**others have nothing.**

Some can do what they want;   
**others have to do as they are told.**

Some people find everything easy;   
**others find that life is a struggle.**

May we always work and pray for justice,   
but also be contented,   
and celebrate your generous love to us.   
**Amen.**

**Blessing**

May God send you to work in God’s vineyard.  
May you be willing,  
may you be contented,  
and may you be productive for God.

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be amongst you and remain with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

**Hymn Sing of the Lord’s goodness**

1 Sing of the Lord's goodness, Father of all wisdom, come to him and bless his name.  
Mercy he has shown us, his love is for ever, faithful to the end of days.

*Come, then, all you nations, sing of your Lord's goodness, melodies of praise and thanks to God.  
Ring out the Lord's glory, praise him with your music, worship him and bless his name*.

2 Power he has wielded, honour is his garment, risen from the snares of death.  
His word he has spoken, one bread he has broken, new life he now gives to all.

3 Courage in our darkness, comfort in our sorrow, Spirit of our God most high;  
solace for the weary, pardon for the sinner, splendour of the living God.

4 Praise him with your singing, praise him with the trumpet, praise God with the lute and harp;  
praise him with the cymbals, praise him with your dancing, praise God till the end of days.