**Readings, Hymns and Propers for 4th October 2020, Trinity 17**

**Hymn:**

As the deer pants for the water

So my soul longs after you

You alone are my heart's desire

And I long to worship you

*You alone are my strength, my shield*

*To you alone will my spirit yield*

*You alone are my hearts desire*

*And I long to worship you*

I want you more than gold or silver

Only you can satisfy

You alone are the real joy giver

And the apple of my eye

You're my friend and you are my Father

Even though you are my King

I love you more than any other

So much more than anything.

**Collect:** Almighty God,

you have made us for yourself,

and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:

pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,

and so bring us at last to your heavenly city

where we shall see you face to face;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**Reading:**

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus*. Phil. 3. 4b-14*

**Hymn**

*He’s got the whole world, in His hands,*

*He’s got the whole wide world, in His hands,*

*He’s got the whole world, in His hands,*

*He’s got the whole world, in His hands.*

**Gospel:**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: ‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’

Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord’s doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes”?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.’

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

*Matthew 21.33-46*

**Post Communion Prayer:** Lord, we pray that your grace

may always precede and follow us,

and make us continually to be given to all good works;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Hymn:**

From heaven you came, helpless babe,

entered our world, your glory veiled;

not to be served, but to serve,

And give your life, that we might live

*This is our God, the Servant King,*

*he calls us now to follow him,*

*to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.*

There is a garden of tears,

My heavy load he chose to bear;

His heart with sorrow was torn,

‘Yet not my will but yours,’ he said.

*This is our God..*

Come see his hands and his feet.

the scars that speak of sacrifice, hands that flung stars into space

to cruel nails surrendered

*This is our God…*

So let us learn how to serve, and in our lives enthrone him; each others needs to prefer, for it is Christ we’re serving. *This is our God…*

*Graham Kendrick*