



## September 5, 2021: The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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### Collect of the Day

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### The First Lesson

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,  
and favour is better than silver or gold.  
The rich and the poor have this in common:  
the LORD is the maker of them all.  
Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,  
and the rod of anger will fail.  
Those who are generous are blessed,  
for they share their bread with the poor.  
Do not rob the poor because they are poor,  
or crush the afflicted at the gate;  
for the LORD pleads their cause  
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

### Psalms 125

*Psalter for the Christian People, p. 177*

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, \*  
**which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.**  
The hills stand about Jerusalem; \*  
**so does the LORD stand round about the chosen people,  
from this time forth for evermore.**  
The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just, \*  
**so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.**  
Show your goodness, O LORD, to those who are good \*  
**and to those who are true of heart.**  
As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,  
the LORD will lead them away with the evildoers; \*  
**but peace be upon Israel.**

### The Second Lesson

James 2:1-10, 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and

say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

### Hymn

We gather here, O God

Tune: *Diademata*

### The Gospel

Mark 7:24-37

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

**Hymn 92 st 1, 2, 4, 6** For the beauty of the earth

*From the Methodist Hymnal.*

## Prayers of the People

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:  
Jack & Grace Murphy and William & Marjorie Bahlke from Jeff and Barbara Murphy  
Flowers of thanksgivings for Paul and Isabel Nickerson

Our prayers are requested for Mary K., Boris, Anita, Billy C., Martin W., Harry and Jeanette, Andy M., Alex, Penny, Maya, Ed B., Glenn, Madison, Anita, Kate, Jim and Debbie, Lois C., Sarah, Gail, Thomas, Maureen, and Linda F. And prayer for all serving our country – especially, remembering Timmy, Tom Z., Emmy, Jack, Sean, Ian, Colin, Tim, and Andrew.

This week's music is gifted by The Carr Family.

This week in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan. Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Alan and, our Bishops; Amy, Dean of our Cathedral; Carol, our Regional Canon; and Nick, our priest. Also, our companion parish at St. Luc's, Lazil, Haiti and our siblings at the MANNA Community in Boston.

This week in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the parishes of the North Shore Deanery: St. Peter's Church, Beverly; St. John's Church, Beverly Farms; All Saints Episcopal Church of the North Shore, Danvers; St. John's Church, Gloucester; and Essex County Community Organization (ECCO).

In the Needham Cycle of Prayer, we pray for First Parish Unitarian-Universalists.

## Those Who Serve

We have opportunities for lay assistants to serve during worship throughout the year. If you haven't been involved before, now is a great time to try it out! Serving today:

Tim Lysaght, Digital Verger • Phil Bergen, Lector  
Steve Sussman, Pianist

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR THANKS

We thank **Frank Kurker** for organizing lemonade time for us today. Join our hybrid coffee hour on [Zoom](#). If you are interested in hosting, please get in touch with [Debby](#). And thanks everyone, for wearing nametags.

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