

## Bible Readings – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

### Philippians 2:12-30

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup>for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose.

<sup>14</sup>Do everything without grumbling or arguing, <sup>15</sup>so that you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.’ Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky <sup>16</sup>as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labour in vain. <sup>17</sup>But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. <sup>18</sup>So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

<sup>19</sup>I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. <sup>20</sup>I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. <sup>21</sup>For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup>But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. <sup>23</sup>I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. <sup>24</sup>And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

<sup>25</sup>But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. <sup>26</sup>For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. <sup>27</sup>Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. <sup>28</sup>Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. <sup>29</sup>So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honour people like him, <sup>30</sup>because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.

### Matthew 21:28-32

<sup>28</sup>‘What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, “Son, go and work today in the vineyard.”

<sup>29</sup>“I will not,” he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

<sup>30</sup>‘Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, “I will, sir,” but he did not go.

<sup>31</sup>‘Which of the two did what his father wanted?’

‘The first,’ they answered.

Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.<sup>32</sup> For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

## **Collect: Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

Almighty God,

To whose glory we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer:

We praise you for the many blessings

You have given to those who worship you here

And we pray that all we who seek you in this place,

and via the ministry from this place on line, may find you,

and being filled with the Holy Spirit,

may become a living temple acceptable to you;

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.

Amen.