

Ordinary Sunday 11 A [Pentecost 3] – Sunday 18 June 2023

- Genesis 18.1-15; (21.1-7); Psalm 116.1-2, 11-18; Romans 5.1-11; Matthew 9.35 – 10.8 (9-23)

God's plans for saving humanity and all creation will not be thwarted. It was no wonder Sarah laughed at the idea of conceiving a child, since she was past child-bearing age – but all things are possible with God, and through this child came many descendants, all the way to Jesus. Then through Jesus' perfect life, death and resurrection all that was broken has been restored – we have peace with God, access to God's grace, and hope for the future. Thanks be to God!

- Praise God for sending Jesus and pray that we may grow in grace so that we may love others as he loved us.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Korea, the Daehan Seong Gong Hoe.

Text: Jan D St Paul's Cathedral, Sale © Anglican Board of Mission, 2023

Reflection

A refiner and purifier of silver

A verse from Malachi 3:3 says "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,

and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study group and they wondered what the statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group when they next met.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. As she watched him, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought again about the verse and about God holding us in such a hot spot. She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. For if the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be ruined.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy - when I see my image in it."

There are times in our faith journeys when we may feel the heat of the fire, but we need to remember that God has His eye on each of us and will keep watching until He sees His image in us.
Excerpt from 'The Tidings' newsletter, St Theodore's Toorak Gardens



Readings - Sunday 18 June 2023 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

Sentence

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand. *Romans 5.1-2*

Collect

All-powerful God,
in Jesus Christ you turned death into life,
and defeat into victory:
increase our faith and trust in him,
that we may triumph over evil,
in the strength of the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 18.1-15

¹ The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. ⁹ They

said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' ¹⁰ Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?' ¹³ The Lord said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, and say, "Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?"' ¹⁴ Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.' ¹⁵ But Sarah denied, saying, 'I did not laugh'; for she was afraid. He said, 'Oh yes, you did laugh.'
For the word of the Lord, ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 116.1-2, 116.11-18

¹ I love the Lord, because he heard my voice:
the voice of my supplication;
² Because he inclined his ear to me:
in the day that I called to him.
¹¹ How shall I repay the Lord:
for all his benefits to me?
¹² I will take up the cup of salvation:
and call upon the name of the Lord.
¹³ I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people.
¹⁴ Grievous in the sight of the Lord:
is the death of his faithful ones.
¹⁵ O Lord, I am your servant,
your servant and the child of your handmaid:
you have unloosed my bonds.
¹⁶ I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving:
and call upon the name of the Lord.
¹⁷ I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people,
¹⁸ In the courts of the house of the Lord:
even in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 5.1-11

¹ Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and

endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.
For the word of the Lord, ***Thanks be to God.***

Gospel: Matthew 9.35-10.8

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.' ¹ Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." ⁸ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

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