



# SEASON OF CREATION

## Lectionary Notes for Season of Creation 2020

### Revised Common Lectionary, Year A

*Prepared by The Rev'd Chris Brouillard-Coyle, Diocese of Huron*

#### **September 6, 2020 – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20*

In 2016, some 190 countries adopted a plan to offset air travel emissions based on 2020 levels. At the time, the officials could not have predicted the significant reduction in air travel this year as a result of a global pandemic. This year's theme for the Season of Creation is "Jubilee for the Earth". The pandemic has resulted in significant behaviour changes that have implications for our carbon footprints. As the letter to the Romans invites us to "wake from sleep", "put aside the works of darkness" and "put on the armor of light": How might we make choices about our relationship to the earth and to each other based on what we have learned about these throughout the challenges and changes of this time?

#### **September 13, 2020 – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Exodus 14:19-31; Ps 114; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35*

The letter to the Romans tells us: "Some believe in eating anything, while the weak only eat vegetables." The text sound like an echo of a contemporary debate with vegans, vegetarians, omnivores and carnivores. There is a lot information currently available about the impact of food production and waste on our health and the health of the planet. It is up to each person to make choices that best reflect their ideals and knowledge. How willing are we to be fully informed consumers if that information challenges us to reconsider our practices? To what extent are we prepared to be accountable to God for the choices we make around food?

## **September 20, 2020 – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16*

Migrant workers, the textile industry in South East Asia, families who live in the dumps looking for recycling materials. There are a plethora of individuals who work through the heat of the day and yet, human structures do not allow them a basic standard of living. Despite their best efforts, despite their hard work, despite their willingness to do what is necessary, they may not be able to afford food and shelter. Some even bear the brunt of the environmental implications of these industries as they are exposed to chemicals and pollutants at work which bleed into the soil and waterways of their homes. In what ways does the parable of the labourers in the vineyard remind us that God's ways are not human ways? To what extent does this story challenge our complicity in these human structures as those called to live the love Jesus showed the world?

## **September 27, 2020 – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32*

While in Kamloops years ago, we watched a train go by filled with coal cars. As of 2017, only 9% of electricity in Canada was generated through coal. The expectation is that Canada will eliminate coal-fired electricity production by 2030. Still, the Port of Vancouver has exported more than 36 million tonnes of coal in a year. The country continues to benefit from other countries' dependence upon an electricity source which is known to significantly contribute to carbon pollution.

One son said no to his dad and then did what was right. The other son said he would go but then didn't. To what extent does our complicity in contributing to pollution through the choices we make offer a parallel to this parable? In what ways can and do we do better?

## **October 4, 2020 – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46*

There is a saying often suggested to have its roots in Native American traditions: we do not inherit the earth from our ancestors we are borrowing from our children. This implies that we are tenants on this earth. Are we good tenants? Are we making good use of the resources we have? Are we caring for the earth and sky and water in ways that will ensure it remains sustaining for future generations? Are we prepared to give the Owner of the vineyard the bounty of the harvest as promised?