

From the Rector's Study, the Rev. Bryce Sangster  
Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, Pentecost XVII  
Lamentations 1:1-6, Psalm 137, 2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10

Do we have enough faith?

The apostles did not think that they had enough faith. They asked for an increase in faith for what reason? Was it to look good and about reputation? Or were they trying to get to the end, the finish line before running the race?

I remember being in Business School at university, and us doing case studies. they were all written and to be approached from the perspective of being someone in charge of the company, the CEO for instance. I guess it's not as bad as coming out of an MBA.

I also don't expect those I prepare for baptism to have all the answers. There is always more we can learn and how we can grow. The spiritual journey continues.

I'm a little confused. What is the connection between the apostles wanting an increase in faith, and Jesus talking about a slave being asked to feed the master before eating themselves?

This may be about control. About controlling the result of what we are praying about. Let there be a direct cause and effect between our prayers and the result. Therefore feeling good about our prayers And perhaps patting ourselves on the back or how good we are at praying to get those results.

The results of our prayers maybe amazing but that is up to God and for us not to take credit for it.

And also to look at where we receive our reward. Jesus talks about plowing and minding sheep before coming back to prepare supper for the master instead of sitting down to eat with the master. To me this means finding value in what we are doing in caring for others add making a contribution to the community. this means valuing the land we are plowing and the sheep we are attending to.

Maybe this begs the question what do we value in what we do and who and what we do it with? Jesus seems to be saying to rejoice and live out the faith that we have and not worrying about its increase. It's not a competition. And to find enjoyment and

fulfillment in what we are doing for its own sake. That we can find an internal reward we don't need an external one.

Today we are celebrating the Roseneath Fair. To give thanks for the gifts and value from those who are contributing to the Fair, because does society give this enough credit and value and support?

Do we fully realize or take for granted where our food comes from? And are there others in our society and community who make valuable contributions which we see as invisible and take for granted?

Does this give us pause to ask the question, are there things in our lives that we to take for granted and see as necessary but do not value the way we could?

Amen

#### Prayers for the Roseneath Fair Service

Prayer over the gifts:

God of power, the glory of your works fills us with wonder and awe. Accept our offering this day and help us to live in peace and harmony with all your creation, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pastoral prayer:

General Thanksgiving Prayers

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us  
and all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation,  
preservation, and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption  
of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up ourselves to your service,  
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness

all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory throughout all ages. Amen

## Blessing

Let us embrace the work and wonder of this day  
with fresh commitment.  
May we go forward together  
in the power of the love of God  
in the company of Jesus Christ  
and by the leading of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**