

The Fifth Sunday after Trinity YEAR B July 5, 2015

The combination of “sentness” and dependence is a strong biblical theme, and it is clearly expressed in the readings this week. What is challenging is that the sending of God is always to service and comes to us as part of the “Sent Community”. In addition, as we are sent we are called to trust both in God and in those from whom we receive resources and support for our work. This applies, of course, not just to clergy, but to all who seek to follow Christ and live as citizens of God’s Reign.

May we experience God’s sending and God’s provision both as we worship and as we go out to live the mission of Christ in our daily lives.

INTRODUCTIONS

For use by lectors, in order of service, parish bulletins and magazines

2 Samuel 5 : 1-5, 9-10

We have been following the story of David’s rise to power. By this time he had already been king of Judah for some time, and now takes control of Israel, too. For the first time, Jerusalem takes on the importance it has had ever since.

or **Ezekiel 2 : 1-5**

To be an apostle means sent as a messenger. Ezekiel, like our Lord’s apostles in today’s Gospel, is sent to speak in the name of God to the people of Israel. Like them, he will sometimes be rejected.

2 Corinthians 12 : 2-10

This is the last of our weekly readings from this letter, in which Paul has had to justify his mission and his message at some length. Although he writes here as if of someone else, it was probably he who had this vision of heaven. Alongside such moments he has had to bear persistent pain.

Mark 6 : 1-13

Mark now moves the ministry of Jesus from Galilee to Nazareth, and shows the universal truth that it is hard to impress the people you grew up with. The sceptics hinder Jesus’s work. But the time has come for him to choose Twelve followers to be apostles for him, sent out in pairs to teach and heal.

Click here to view the readings -

http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=2%20Samuel%205:%201-5,%209-10&0A%20BOR%0AEzekiel%202:%201-5%20%0A%20Psalm%2048%0A%20BOR%0A%20Psalm%20123%0A%20Corinthians%2012:%202-10&0AMark%206:%201-13

COLLECTS OF THE DAY

Collect One

Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee,
that the course of this world
may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance,
that thy Church may joyfully serve thee

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in all godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect Two

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
Hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 1

Heavenly Father, you knew that your prophets would often be ignored, yet you sent them out as messengers to speak your word with power. Open our ears, that we may hear your call to repentance.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: **You live among us.**

Lord God Almighty, King David became greater and greater, because you were with him. When he erred and forgot your presence, his greatness dimmed. We pray for obedience to you, ever-present God, so that we may live by faith, hope and love.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: **You live among us.**

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are great forever, and you guide us all our days.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: **You live among us.**

In our weaknesses, Lord Jesus Christ, we know you best. In our needs you find a way to be our Lord.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: **You live among us.**

Resistance to you, Lord Jesus Christ, never ends. You are often rejected, even as Our Father and the Holy Spirit are often rejected. Yet, you still love, heal, and visit your people. Help us see you in this place, at this very moment.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: **You live among us.**

As we name aloud those who need your healing, hear us as we also whisper our own name _____.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: **You live among us.**

The love of God has won. The new life has begun. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 2

Presider or deacon

As we respond to God's call to proclaim the gospel, let us offer prayers for all those in need.

Deacon or other leader

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For this holy gathering and for the people of God in every place.

Lord, have mercy.

For all nations, peoples, tribes, clans, and families.

Lord, have mercy.

For mercy, peace, and justice in the world, and for our nation on its birthday.

Lord, have mercy.

For all those suffering from weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities.

Lord, have mercy.

For the sick and the suffering, the poor and the oppressed, prisoners and their families.

Lord, have mercy.

For the dying and the dead.

Lord, have mercy.

For ourselves, our families, our companions, and all those we love.

Lord, have mercy.

Lifting our voices with all creation, with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord.**

Presider

God of power and weakness, hear the prayers we offer today, and give us strength in our trials; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION

Holy and blessed God,
as you give us the body and blood of your Son,
guide us with your Holy Spirit,
that we may honour you not only with our lips
but also with our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYERS

Thematic

O God,
sustain us in the complexity of our humanity
as you sustained David--
playing the harp of youth,
throwing stones at giant problems,
loving our friends beyond wisdom,
dancing worship,

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mourning children,
breaking our hearts in psalms, and
longing for warmth in our old bones. Amen.

Intercessory

Friends in Christ,
God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers
as dear to us as our own needs.
Loving our neighbors as ourselves,
we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions
on behalf of the church and the world.

Intercessions may be inserted concluding with:

Hear our prayers, God of power,
and through the ministry of your Son
free us from the grip of the tomb,
that we may desire you as the fullness of life
and proclaim your saving deeds to all the world. Amen.

As you heard the prayer of Isaac and Rebekah, O God,
and guided them in the way of your love,
so listen now to those who call upon you.

Intercessions may be inserted concluding with:

Move us to praise your gracious will,
for in Christ Jesus you have saved us from the deeds of death
and opened for us the hidden ways of your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, friend of those in need,
your Son Jesus has untied our burdens
and healed our spirits.
We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened,
those seeking healing,
those in need within the church and the world.

Intercessions may be inserted concluding with:

Hear our prayers
that we may love you with our whole being
and willingly share the concerns of our neighbors. Amen.

Creator God,
you call us to love and serve you

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with body, mind, and spirit
through loving your creation
and our sisters and brothers.
Open our hearts in compassion
and receive these petitions
on behalf of the needs of the church and the world.

Intercessions may be inserted concluding with:

Holy One,
hear our prayers and make us faithful stewards
of the fragile bounty of this earth
so that we may be entrusted with the riches of heaven. Amen.

We praise your abiding guidance, O God,
for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah,
to model for us the way of love for the whole universe.
We offer these prayers of love
on behalf of ourselves and our neighbors,
on behalf of your creation and our fellow creatures.

Intercessions may be inserted concluding with:

Loving God,
open our ears to hear your word
and draw us closer to you,
that the whole world may be one with you
as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of mercy and healing,
you who hear the cries of those in need,
receive these petitions of your people
that all who are troubled
may know peace, comfort, and courage.

Intercessions may be inserted concluding with:

Life-giving God,
heal our lives,
that we may acknowledge your wonderful deeds
and offer you thanks from generation to generation
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of salvation,
who sent your Son to seek out and save what is lost,
hear our prayers

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on behalf of those who are lost in our day,
receiving these petitions and thanksgivings
with your unending compassion.

Intercessions may be inserted concluding with:

Redeeming Sustainer,
visit your people
and pour out your strength and courage upon us,
that we may hurry to make you welcome
not only in our concern for others,
but by serving them
generously and faithfully in your name. Amen.

Scripture

Guardian of the weak,
through the teachings of your prophets
you have claimed our cities, towns, and homes
as temples of your presence and citadels of your justice.
Turn the places we live into strongholds of your grace,
that the most vulnerable
as well as the most powerful among us
may find peace in the security
that comes in the strong name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

God of grace and powerful weakness,
at times your projects were ignored, rejected, belittled, and unwelcome.
Trusting that we, too, are called to be prophets,
fill us with your Spirit,
and support us by your gentle hands,
that we may persevere in speaking your word
and living our faith. Amen.

Offertory

Heavenly God, as Jesus sent his disciples out in pairs, so you long to send us to transform a world in desperate need of your love and compassion. Too many of us have answered hesitantly: If we were more financially secure, we would be more ready to go in your name. Remind us that Jesus sends us, not based on what we have, but on our willingness to let go of earthly treasure that we might trust more deeply in your providence and the hospitality of others. As we give this morning, help us to be ready to let go and be sent by you into the world, whether near or far. We pray it in the name of the one whom we proclaim as Savior and the Light of the World. Amen. (*Mark 6:1-13*)

LECTIONARY NOTES 1

REFLECTIONS ON THEME:

Two complementary ideas come together in a very challenging way in this week's Lectionary readings. Firstly, the "sentness" of God's people is reflected in David's appointment as king over all of Israel and Judah (including the establishment of Jerusalem as the city of David and of God as celebrated in Psalm 48), in Ezekiel's call to be a

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prophet, in Paul's ministry, and in both Jesus' work in his home town and his sending of the twelve to preach and demonstrate God's Reign. Secondly, this sending always happens in dependence on God. Ezekiel is called and God promises to show that he is a prophet irrespective of whether the people listen to him. David's journey, which we have been following over the last few weeks, reveals how much he depended on God in his ascension to the throne. Paul recognises that God's strength is made perfect in his weakness, and so he refuses to boast in anything except his dependence on God. In a similar way Psalm 123 reveals dependence on God for mercy. Finally, Jesus sends his disciples out, as he has been sent, with no real resources, but ready to rely on the hospitality of others for their basic needs, and depending on God for the power to fulfil their ministry. The message of this week, flowing out of last week's challenge to live under God's authority, is to embrace the call of God, and go out as servants of Christ in dependence on God's resources, God's strength, to sustain us. An important feature of this "sentness" is that it is inherent in the community of God's Reign. The individuals are sent in so far as they are part of a "sent" community. It's a basic message, and a common one to hear from the Scriptures, but it is also an important reminder that we live by God's purposes and God's resources – which is what ensures that our lives make an impact for God's Reign.

CONNECTING WITH LIFE:

GLOBAL APPLICATION: There is no shortage of work to be done in our world today. The issues of justice are many, they are diverse and they require people of passion, commitment and with a sense of being "called" or "sent". But, for justice to become a reality in our nations and communities, there must be a sense in which all of the individual initiatives connect and form part of a larger whole. It is not just individuals who are sent, but groups and communities, and as we work together, each with our own particular gifting or focus, we can make significant difference. Two key features in this work flow out of this week's Lectionary. The first is the impact that we have when we have a sense of "being sent" to do our work. It is this sense that we are participating in something bigger than ourselves that sustains us, directs us and prevents us from making it all about us. The second feature is the question of dependence on God, and on those to whom we are sent. There is nothing shameful about relying on those with resources that we don't have – be it financial, political, networking, or communications. When we can trust, both in God's serendipitous work and in the desire of others to support and contribute to meaningful, justice-bringing work, we are able to open ourselves to the strength, resources, and connections that we need to make a difference. The challenge of these two key features, though, is that they both require substantial helpings of humility. We need the humility to participate in "sent communities" instead of insisting on working alone. We need the humility to recognise that the work we do is far bigger than us, and that we are just a part. And we need the humility to trust and receive when God brings people and resources to us that help us to do our work.

LOCAL APPLICATION: It is all too easy, in our communities and families, to receive God's call to leadership and ministry as some sort of "promotion" to a place of status. It is all too easy to begin to lean on our own wisdom, abilities, and charisma to do the work we are called to do. But, when we fall into these temptations we easily begin to become arrogant and potentially controlling and abusive (at worst) or rigid and closed to team work and the ideas of others (at best). Rather, in order to receive and share God's life, we need to learn two important lessons of both leadership and servanthood. The first lesson is to accept that any calling comes only as part of a called community. We are always sent as individuals because of our connection with, and our place in, a "sent community". The second lesson is that we are always sent to serve, which requires both trust in God's

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message and mission, and the humility to be vulnerable to those to whom we seek to minister. The resources by which we serve are also not our own, but are gifts we receive from God, and from others who are "called" to resource God's work. In this way, ministry becomes an act of community-building and of mutual service and faith. And, when we begin to live and serve like this, we truly begin to experience life as God intended it.

LECTIONARY NOTES 2

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10:

- "bone and flesh" - it must have given David great comfort to hear these words of commitment from the tribes, even after they had served under Saul. We don't always have such great success at transitioning leadership in the church, do we? Of course, with Saul's death, this transition wasn't exactly smooth either...
- In verse 2, the people say it was David who "led out Israel and brought it in" - tasks of a shepherd. This imagery sticks with David throughout his life - it is how he views God (Psalm 23) and how God has called him to be.
- "30 years old" - Wow. At 27 as I write this, I can't imagine being King of such a messed up country at 30. Impressive.

Psalm 48:

- This psalm focuses mostly on the beauty of Jerusalem, the holy place, and Mount Zion, a holy and loved place in Jerusalem. Perhaps the biblical equivalent of "America the Beautiful," which happens to be my favorite patriotic song - focusing on what we love about our homeland and our thankfulness for it, as opposed to focusing on our superiority over others.
- Still, perhaps this psalm is a little "Star-Spangled Banner" - we do get a bit of enemy talk in here (what is a psalm without it, right?)
- What's your favorite holy place? What's your favorite convergence of home and God?

2 Corinthians 12:2-10:

- "caught up to the third heaven" - Paul clearly has a different understanding of cosmology than do we today - check out [Chris Haslam's notes](#) on the topic.
- "thorn in the flesh" - I think we can all relate to Paul here, even if we'll never know exactly what Paul considered his "thorn in the flesh." We all know our thorn or thorns. What's yours? How do you deal with it?
- "boast" - Someday I have to count the number of times Paul uses the word 'boast' and the number of times he is writing about how he's really not boasting!
- "whenever I am weak, then I am strong" - a very Jesus-like paradoxical statement

Mark 6:1-13:

- Jesus' experience of going home and finding people less-than-welcoming is not unusual. Things are never the same when you leave and go back again, are they?
- The disciples here make an initial transition to apostles - ones sent. Christopher Moore in his novel *Lamb*, has a great passage about this, which you can read in a sermon of mine [here](#).

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- Think of how detailed our preparations for traveling are these days. Itineraries and packing and repacking and maps and GPS - could you go out as unprepared as Jesus sent the disciples? And yet, they do it, prepared in the ways that count, as much as they can be.
- How prepared can you really be, anyway? Before actually starting my first day as a pastor, I still felt unprepared. Trained, equipped - but nothing can totally prepare you for the real thing. You just have to do it. So it is with being sent by Jesus. We just have to do it.

By Beth Quick

SERMON OUTLINE

Mark 6:1-13 he came to his home town... Prop9B

Local boy makes good! Such may be the tabloid headline when some famous son returns to his home town... there is adulation – but also jealousy... *Who does he think he is?* Of course, when it comes to Jesus the question we ask is “*Who do we think that he is?*” Such was the challenge for the people of Nazareth...

1. The Synagogue of Nazareth 1-2: as was his custom - ²*On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, & many who heard him were astounded* at his sound doctrine & easy style. Today, 2000 yrs later as we study his teaching, people are still astounded....
2. The Son of God 3-6: Not everyone was impressed! Note the variety of comment Mark shares with us - *‘Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands!’* ³*Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary? And they took offence at him.* He was no mere human – but Son of the Living God. Their critical unbelieving attitude brought its sad consequence upon the town - ⁵*he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them.* ⁶*he was amazed at their unbelief....* Still the work had to continue...
3. The Sending of the Twelve 7-12: on a preaching, teaching healing mission 2x2... They were to travel light - with *authority over the unclean spirits* In contrast to the unbelief of Nazareth, they met with success - ¹³*They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.* The episode speaks from the past about today’s world – divided in its opinion about Jesus – belief & unbelief – acceptance & rejection of Christ....

By Norman Porteous

ONLINE SERMON SOURCES

Paul - Frederick Buechner Sermon Illustrations. Good pce on the 2Corinthians reading. Would do almost anytime for a sermon on Paul.

<http://frederickbuechner.com/content/weekly-sermon-illustration-paul>

Buying the Ticket, Anthony Robinson, Day 1

On Mark 6 - made up of two quite distinct parts.

Part one: Jesus' visit to his hometown, Nazareth.

Part two: Jesus sending his disciples out two by two.

http://day1.org/3940-buying_the_ticket

"Strong in the Broken Places," the Rev. Dr. Robert Franklin, Day 1

http://day1.org/1328-strong_in_the_broken_places

www.churchnewsireland.org

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["Who Does He Think He Is?"](#) Dianne Bergant, CSA, *America: The National Catholic Weekly*
http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=3042

CHILDREN

[Worshiping with Children](#), Pentecot +6, Including children in the congregation's worship, using the Revised Common Lectionary, Carolyn C. Brown
<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2012/06/year-b-proper-9-14th-sunday-in-ordinary.html>

["Sermon of the Week,"](#) / ["Mensajes para ninos,"](#) Sermons 4 Kids, Charles Kirkpatrick, Object Lessons & Children's Sermons, Coloring Pages, Puzzles.
<http://www.sermons4kids.com/>

Pack No Things, Frances Woodruff, On the Chancel Steps
<https://onthechancelsteps.wordpress.com/2012/06/24/pack/>

Spreading the Good News, Dianne Deming, Childrens Sermons Today
<http://childrenssermonstoday.blogspot.co.uk/2012/07/spreading-good-news.html>

Hymn Suggestions:

O Jesus I Have Promised
Trust And Obey
O Master Let Me Walk With Thee
My Faith Looks Up To Thee
Lord, Reign In Me
Lifesong
Go Tell Everyone
You, You Are The God