

## TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 7 AUGUST 2016

*These readings are provided, first, so you can re-read and reflect on them during the week, and second, if you wish, to follow the readings during the service.*

### **Isaiah 1.1, 10-20**

<sup>1</sup> The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

<sup>11</sup> What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt-offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.

<sup>12</sup> When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand?

Trample my courts no more;

<sup>13</sup> bringing offerings is futile;

incense is an abomination to me.

New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation— I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.

<sup>14</sup> Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates;

they have become a burden to me,

I am weary of bearing them.

<sup>15</sup> When you stretch out your hands,

I will hide my eyes from you;

even though you make many prayers,

I will not listen;

your hands are full of blood.

<sup>16</sup> Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings

from before my eyes; cease to do evil,

<sup>17</sup> learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

<sup>18</sup> Come now, let us argue it out,

says the Lord:

though your sins are like scarlet,

they shall be like snow;

though they are red like crimson,

they shall become like wool.

<sup>19</sup> If you are willing and obedient,

you shall eat the good of the land;

<sup>20</sup> but if you refuse and rebel,  
you shall be devoured by the sword;  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

### **Psalm 33.13-21**

<sup>13</sup> The Lord looks down from heaven  
and surveys all the children of Adam:  
he considers from his dwelling-place  
all the inhabitants of the earth;  
<sup>14</sup> He who fashioned the hearts of them all:  
and comprehends all that they do.  
<sup>15</sup> A king is not saved by a mighty army:  
nor is a warrior delivered by much  
strength;  
<sup>16</sup> A horse is a vain hope as a deliverer:  
nor can he rescue any by his great  
power.  
<sup>17</sup> But the eye of the Lord is on those that  
fear him:  
on those that trust in his unfailing  
love,  
<sup>18</sup> To deliver them from death:  
and to feed them in the time of  
dearth.  
<sup>19</sup> We have waited eagerly for the Lord:  
for he is our help and our shield.  
<sup>20</sup> Surely our hearts shall rejoice in him:  
for we have trusted in his holy name.  
<sup>21</sup> Let your merciful kindness be upon us,  
O Lord:  
even as our hope is in you.

### **Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16**

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things  
hoped for, the conviction of things not  
seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors  
received approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand  
that the worlds were prepared by the word  
of God, so that what is seen was made  
from things that are not visible. <sup>8</sup> By faith  
Abraham obeyed when he was called to set  
out for a place that he was to receive as an  
inheritance; and he set out, not knowing  
where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed  
for a time in the land he had been  
promised, as in a foreign land, living in  
tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were  
heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For  
he looked forward to the city that has  
foundations, whose architect and builder is

God.<sup>11</sup> By faith he received power of  
procreation, even though he was too old—  
and Sarah herself was barren—because he  
considered him faithful who had  
promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person,  
and this one as good as dead, descendants  
were born, 'as many as the stars of heaven  
and as the innumerable grains of sand by  
the seashore.'<sup>13</sup> All of these died in faith  
without having received the promises, but  
from a distance they saw and greeted  
them. They confessed that they were  
strangers and foreigners on the  
earth, <sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way  
make it clear that they are seeking a  
homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of  
the land that they had left behind, they  
would have had opportunity to  
return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better  
country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore  
God is not ashamed to be called their God;  
indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

### **Luke 12.32-40**

<sup>32</sup> 'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your  
Father's good pleasure to give you the  
kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions, and give  
alms. Make purses for yourselves that do  
not wear out, an unfailing treasure in  
heaven, where no thief comes near and no  
moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure  
is, there your heart will be also. <sup>35</sup> 'Be  
dressed for action and have your lamps  
lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their  
master to return from the wedding  
banquet, so that they may open the door  
for him as soon as he comes and  
knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those slaves whom  
the master finds alert when he comes;  
truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and  
have them sit down to eat, and he will  
come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes  
during the middle of the night, or near  
dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those  
slaves. <sup>39</sup> 'But know this: if the owner of  
the house had known at what hour the  
thief was coming, he would not have let his  
house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be  
ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an  
unexpected hour.'