

Readings for Sunday, September 15, 2019
Woodbury United Methodist Church

A Reading from the prophet Jeremiah:

¹¹The time is coming when the people of Jerusalem will be told that a scorching wind is blowing in from the desert toward them. It will not be a gentle wind that only blows away the chaff— ¹²the wind that comes at the LORD's command will be much stronger than that! It is the LORD himself who is pronouncing judgment on his people.

The LORD says, "My people are stupid; they don't know me. They are like foolish children; they have no understanding. They are experts at doing what is evil, but failures at doing what is good." ²³I looked at the earth—it was a barren waste; at the sky—there was no light. ²⁴I looked at the mountains—they were shaking, and the hills were rocking back and forth. ²⁵I saw that there were no people; even the birds had flown away. ²⁶The fertile land had become a desert; its cities were in ruins because of the LORD's fierce anger. (²⁷The LORD has said that the whole earth will become a wasteland, but that he will not completely destroy it.) ²⁸The earth will mourn; the sky will grow dark. The LORD has spoken and will not change his mind. He has made his decision and will not turn back.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 51 (led by Choir)

A Reading from Paul's 1st Letter to Timothy:

¹²I give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength for my work. I thank him for considering me worthy and appointing me to serve him, ¹³even though in the past I spoke evil of him and persecuted and insulted him. But God was merciful to me because I did not yet have faith and so did not know what I was doing. ¹⁴And our Lord poured out his abundant grace on me and gave me the faith and love which are ours in union with Christ Jesus. ¹⁵This is a true saying, to be completely accepted and believed: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I am the

Readings for Sunday, September 15, 2019
Woodbury United Methodist Church

worst of them, ¹⁶but God was merciful to me in order that Christ Jesus might show his full patience in dealing with me, the worst of sinners, as an example for all those who would later believe in him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷To the eternal King, immortal and invisible, the only God—to him be honor and glory forever and ever! Amen.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE:

One day when many tax collectors and other outcasts came to listen to Jesus, ²the Pharisees and the teachers of the [Law](#) started grumbling, “This man welcomes outcasts and even eats with them!” ³So Jesus told them this parable:

⁴“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them—what do you do? You leave the other ninety-nine sheep in the pasture and go looking for the one that got lost until you find it. ⁵When you find it, you are so happy that you put it on your shoulders ⁶and carry it back home. Then you call your friends and neighbors together and say to them, ‘I am so happy I found my lost sheep. Let us celebrate.’ ⁷In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine respectable people who do not need to repent.

⁸Or suppose a woman who has ten silver coins loses one of them—what does she do? She lights a lamp, sweeps her house, and looks carefully everywhere until she finds it. ⁹When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, and says to them, ‘I am so happy I found the coin I lost. Let us celebrate!’ ¹⁰In the same way, I tell you, the angels of God rejoice over one sinner who repents.”

This is the word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**