

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 4th October, 17th Sunday after Trinity

Old Testament Reading:	Isaiah 5: 1-7
Psalm:	Psalm 80: 9-17
New Testament:	Philippians 3, 4b-14
Gospel Reading:	Matthew 21: 33-46

Reflection on the Gospel reading:

A tough parable this week, in which the chief priests and the elders of the people, the Jewish leaders, must recognise a few home truths. They realise the parable is about them, they are the tenants in the vineyard. The vineyard symbolises Israel and the owner is God. Yet instead of tending the vineyard they have put it to their own use, destroying those who have tried to collect the produce and eventually driving the heir out of the vineyard and putting him to death, just as they intend to take Jesus out of the city and crucify him.

Recognising themselves as being condemned does not lead to repentance and forgiveness, they plan instead to arrest Jesus. Destroying him is better than listening to him. Yet others do listen and hear, that the Kingdom of God will flourish through the Son, and if we listen to him, repent and follow him then we are part of that Kingdom and will produce fruit in it. We are offered the same choice. The same freedom, the same flourishing. We have to abandon our pride and desire to be in control and instead turn to Christ: the way, the truth and the life. By Rev. Jo

collect for the 17th Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to you heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am Sunday Morning
Worship, Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.

