

Sermon notes for Last Sunday after Pentecost
(Sunday before Thanksgiving)
November 20, 2022.

Delivered at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Chester, Vermont.

Scripture selections:

Jeremiah 23:1-6;
Canticle 16 – “The Song of Zechariah;
Epistle – Colossians 1:11-20;
Luke 23:33-45.

Hymns:

Entrance Hymn 477, The Hymnal 1982, “All praise to thee, for thou O King divine,”;
Sequence hymn 748, Wonder, Love, and Praise, “From the dawning of creation, God was present in the Word”;
Offertory hymn 433, The Hymnal 1982, “We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;”
Communion hymn 291, The Hymnal 1982, “We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land”;
Closing hymn 397, The Hymnal 1982, “Now thank we all our God.”

Scattering as judgment

Scattered to where? Babylon and by Babylon, Jewish diaspora. Trail of tears. Denial of Ethan Allen that indigenous folks had lived in Vermont
Scattered by chaotically criminal society where young folks join gangs to gain power –

Is migration and fleeing slavery scattering?

We sing hymns of gathering today

Collect asking that we may be freed and brought together – together with those by whom and from whom we are scattered.

Strange to have an account of Jesus in his crucifixion on the day celebrating the feast of Christ the King.

Why the label king? Not our image of king. Forgiveness for those crucifying me...

Stephen in Acts of the Apostles as he is stoned to death urges forgiveness too.

Can we who share the benefits of colonisation and slavery accept both responsibility and forgiveness?

We are trying to make up for it by such tactics as affirmative action.

Still, forgiveness does not free us to enjoy the financial and material benefits without moving in a new direction, repenting?

We gather and thank our God