

Monday, April 10, 2017 - Day 99 – I Samuel 7-9, Psalm 82, John 17

The reading from 1 Samuel 7 is pretty-hard to get past this week knowing what we know about the future. Yesterday, in churches all over the world, we remembered and memorialized that Jesus was heralded in a triumphful entry into Jerusalem. We hear in today's reading the dialogue that we read between God and Samuel, a different view is taken. God implores the people of Israel to continue direct leadership under God. But no, we can't do it. Even though God – through Samuel – points out the myriad of pitfalls from earthly leadership, the people still chose to have a king. And Saul, is identified as a strong candidate for the earthly King that the people so craved.

Psalm 82 is yet another in a series of the Psalms of Asaph pointing out God's role as divine Judge. The Psalm feels liturgical, yet makes clear, the role of all judges to side with the needy, the lowly, and destitute.

In John 17 we hear one of Jesus' direct prayers for his disciples. It is a prayer that both skirts along the edge of our beloved collect format and is an intimate plea from Jesus for those that follow him. It fits into Holy Week beautifully helping us to realize that we are God's beloved children, or as I like to say; we are beloved children of God.

By The Very Rev. Jonathan Clodfelter