

19th Sunday after Pentecost

St. Mary's Islington Anglican Church

London, October 19, 2025

“And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones,
who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting
them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and
quickly.”
(Luke 18:7–8)

1. Dear Father James, fellow clergy and leaders present, beloved brothers and sisters, I thank you for the opportunity to share the message on this day.
2. The climate and environmental crisis stand at the horizon of our contemporary anxieties. What are our expectations for the future? Is there a future? We live in a time full of doubts.
3. All of us, in our different contexts, are experiencing the climate crisis and its consequences. In the Amazon region, for example, over the past three years we have faced extreme drought.
4. In some places last year, the relative humidity dropped to 20%, whereas in the Amazon it is normally above 90%. River levels fell by more than

30 meters, and even during the rainy season, the waters did not return to their usual levels.

5. Countless communities were left isolated—many without drinking water or food. And we know this will happen again and worsen year after year. What used to be considered unusual is becoming our new normal.
6. Earlier this year, in 2025, the Lenten Retreat for the clergy of our Anglican Diocese was held in a special place—a natural sanctuary that about fifteen years ago had been devastated by sand and clay extraction.
7. That area was later acquired and restored by a group of people. Today, the local biome has regenerated, and the residents have become agroforesters. It is striking to see what has been transformed—from desolation to abundance.
8. While there, I learned that one of the consequences of last year's extreme drought was that in several parts of the Amazon region, many fruits grew without seeds this year.
9. What is our Mother Earth trying to tell us? What is God's creation—our Common Home—showing us? Without seeds, there is no future. This is deeply unsettling, at least it was for me.

10. Reflecting on this, I was reminded of the passage from Romans 8:22–25: “We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption... For in this hope, we were saved. But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.”
11. This scripture speaks to us of pain and suffering, but also of hope and perseverance. And this connects directly with today’s Gospel reading: Luke 18:1–8.
12. The passage begins by saying, “Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”
13. One might expect Jesus to tell the story of a contemplative person, perhaps a recluse devoted to constant prayer. Instead, he tells the story of an unjust judge and a widow who persistently cries out for justice.
14. And Jesus concludes with a question: “And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you; he will see that they get justice, and quickly.”

15. In this parable, Jesus makes it clear that the judge was unjust and indifferent. Yet, if even such a judge eventually gave in and did what was right, how much more will God—who is love and justice—respond to the cries of his creation.
16. On one hand, Jesus reveals the justice of God in response to the cry of his creation. On the other, he draws our attention to the attitude of the widow—her perseverance, her initiative, her refusal to give up, her hope that endured even when all seemed lost.
17. Saint Teresa of Ávila once said: *“Prayer is not about thinking much but about loving much.”* The parable of the persistent widow is, like many others, both open and provocative. It calls us to perseverance and hope but also invites us to trust in the God who brings justice to those who cry out to him.
18. And let us not forget: all creation is groaning, suffering, and crying out—and so are we. In this moment, we are called to rediscover perseverance and hope—those tiny sparks of light capable of transforming everything.
19. Perseverance and hope help us to live under Grace, shaping lives expressed through new

relationships—with one another and with all of creation.

20. As Christians, we are called to the awareness that creation is part of God's project of salvation, of which humanity is a participant. We are invited to embody this process in our own lives, living as people who enact God's vision of justice, care, and solidarity.
21. Justice, care, and solidarity—these must define both our human relationships and our relationship with our Common Home. Our perseverance and hope in Christ lead us to look toward the future—the new creation of God, the new heavens and the new earth.
22. The mission of faith is to transform society. True faith is alive; it moves us and calls us to act today—to live justice and love with all people, and with all creation. This is the truest form of prayer.
23. Faith awakens in us an awareness of the deep connection between all things within creation—of our mutual interdependence. It leads us to an attitude of solidarity and care, revealing us as true sons and daughters of God.
24. From my own perspective and context in the Amazon, our struggles for socio-environmental

justice—for the rights of Indigenous and traditional peoples to their territories and their ways of life—are part of this calling. They must resonate in our spirituality and find a place in our catechesis.

25. And consequently, they should nurture personal and collective actions consistent with the convictions of our faith. True Christian perseverance is not static but dynamic and proactive—and so is hope.
26. Active perseverance and hope require transformative behaviour. Our role is to be a prophetic voice—denouncing degradation and destruction, while announcing a new way of living in harmony with creation.
27. Let us remember: *"In hope we were saved... But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."*
And even more: *"God will bring about justice for his creation, and he will do so quickly."*
28. May God, Father and Mother, grant us boldness, faith, and courage. May nothing hold us back, nothing causes us fear or hesitation. May we remain steadfast—and may we be the seeds of a new world.

Amen.

