

A meditation for personal use

From the 'Diary of Daily Prayer' by J. Barrie Shepherd

Before I awaken this morning
you are with me, Lord,
and even as I open my eyes
you greet me with the gift of this new day.
May I take this certainty of your presence with me
into all this day can hold.

Be with me now as I go forth
—not as some strange and ghostly watch-over-me,
but as a deeper and truer awareness within:

An awareness
which is constantly opening my mind
to ideas,
to possibilities,
to relationships,
to understandings;

An awareness
which is constantly opening my heart
to trust,
to hope,
to sharing and giving,
to the call of the needs of my fellow creatures;

an awareness
which is constantly opening all my senses
to the hidden joys,
the tiny discoveries,
the lesser celebrations
and the over-arching wonder
of your gift of life.



What an amazing world

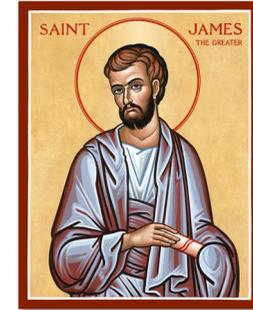


ST NICHOLAS CHURCH
CHISLEHURST



Sunday 25 July 2021

THE FEAST OF ST JAMES



Welcome to Worship

*We are pleased you are here
We welcome you, just as you are*

Staying Covid-Safe

Although restrictions have eased, we are mindful of our **individual** and **corporate** responsibilities to keep one another safe and to play our part in helping to reduce viral transmission.

Please remember, wearing a face-covering is primarily for the safety of others. Please be considerate.

Please also sanitize your hands regularly.

In sharing "The Peace" please do what you feel comfortable with, remembering that some people may not wish to engage in physical contact.

Unfortunately we are not able to provide pens, paper, toys for children in church. Adults bringing children to church might wish to consider bringing their own toys etc., with them.

We are committed to keeping everyone as safe as possible

It's been a VERY long time in the waiting

We have been patiently waiting for our doors to re-open fully. We have finally reached the day! At last, as your new(ish) Parish Priest, I can meet you all and share worship as a whole household of faith again. I really appreciate your patience and understanding as we have sought to keep EVERYONE in our faith community safe and protected. What has seemed sensible to some, has seemed frustrating and inconvenient to others. I know about that tension; I thank you for living with it and bearing with one another patiently. But now we must begin to rebuild. Please know that **things cannot just 'return to how they were'**. Some things have changed irrevocably. Some things will take time to rediscover. Other things we must do completely new. In the Spirit of Hemmingway's six-word stories, here's mine:

"Wind blows, sails fill, journey begins"....what would yours be?

The Feast of St James the Apostle

James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John were nick-named the 'Sons of Thunder' – probably because they were the hot-headed ones who wanted to call down thunder and lightning upon the Samaritan town that would not receive Jesus. They were both of the group of the 12 disciples. Both of them, along with Peter, witnessed the Transfiguration, and were also called to watch and pray with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. They were also the ones who asked for 'special places' in the Kingdom of heaven – and both were reminded that the place of honour is also the place of much suffering.

James was beheaded in about 42AD, on the order of King Herod Agrippa I (grandson of Herod the Great, who tried to kill the infant Jesus; and nephew of Herod Antipas, who beheaded John the Baptist, and who questioned Jesus on Good Friday). James was the first of the Twelve to be martyred and the only one of the Twelve whose death is recorded in the New Testament. James is the patron saint of pilgrims.



You are invited to come and join us again.



If you've not already done so, please sign up to our weekly e-news and stay in touch with us.



We have services every Sunday at 8am, 9.30am and 11.15am with a monthly service of Evening Prayer at 6pm on the first Sunday of the month.

DO JOIN US AGAIN SOON

Please do join us for refreshments
in the Village Hall

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR MASK ON
WHEN NOT CONSUMING REFRESHMENTS**



Worship Next Sunday - 1st August

Next Sunday is a special Sunday when the whole household of St Nick's is invited to share in breakfast in the Village Hall from 9.30am.

On that day there will also be a Parish Eucharist in the evening at 6pm.

These are the ONLY two events happening next Sunday:

9.30am Parish BIG Breakfast in the Village Hall
with a time of prayer and praise

6pm Parish Eucharist (Common Worship) in church

We sing the final HYMN

during which the procession moves to the back of church.

I, the Lord of sea and sky

I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night,

I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them?

Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,

I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them.

They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,

Give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my words to them.

Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord...

I, the Lord of wind and flame,

I will send the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them.

My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide,

'Til their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them.

Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord...

Dan Schutte, based on Isaiah 6

© 1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music

Dismissal

The Liturgical Deacon dismisses everyone, saying,

With a song in your heart, go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

As the procession enters, we STAND to sing the HYMN:

All people that on earth do dwell,

sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:

him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,

come ye before him, and rejoice!

The Lord ye know is God indeed,

without our aid he did us make

we are his folk, he doth us feed,

and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,

approach with joy his courts unto;

praise, laud, and bless his name always,

for it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good,

his mercy is for ever sure;

his truth at all times firmly stood,

and shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,

the God whom heaven and earth adore,

from men and from the Angel-host

be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

Based on Psalm 100

William Kethe d 1594

Gathering and Welcome

Priest Grace, mercy and peace

from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All And also with you.

The Presiding Priest formally welcomes everyone & briefly introduces the service

Creator of the world, eternal God,

All we have come from many places,

And here we find a welcome.

Redeemer of humanity, God-with-us,

All we come as we are, with all our differences,

seeking common ground.

All Spirit of unity, go-between God,
**we have come on journeys of our own,
to a place where journeys meet.**

So here in this place, let us take time together.
For when paths cross and people gather,
there is much to share and much to celebrate.

All **In your name, three-in-one God,
pattern of community. Amen**

All **Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

The Liturgical Deacon says,

God is love and we are God's children.
There is no room for fear in love.
We love because God loved us first.
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith:

*A moment of SILENT REFLECTION is kept as we call to mind all that separates
us from God and from each other.*

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.
For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives;
Father, forgive us:

All **Save us and help us**

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you.
Father, forgive us:

All **Save us and help us**

For failing you by what we do, and think and say;
Father, forgive us:

All **Save us and help us**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
by temptations in the world about us;
Father, forgive us:

All **Save us and help us**

Communion

*Everyone is invited to the altar for communion or a blessing.
All are welcome to receive communion, but if you would prefer a blessing
instead, please carry this service booklet with you.*

*The Common Cup is still suspended, but Communion is in both
kinds—each host having been marked with consecrated wine.
If you require a GLUTEN-FREE host, please use the HIGH ALTAR.
Please wear your mask when coming forward and return to your seat to
consume the host.*

After communion a period of SILENT prayer is kept by everyone.



Prayer after Communion

We STAND

All **Father of all, we give you thanks and praise
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Blessing

Priest The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

May the songs of the angels sustain you,
may the praises of the saints inspire you,
may the silent music of the Unseen Trinity be in your heart,
and the blessing of God almighty,
the ✠Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

THE COMMUNION RITE

Lord's Prayer

Jesus taught us to call God, 'our Father', so in faith we pray:

All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

All **Though we are many,
we are one body because we all share in one bread.**

We SIT or KNEEL

We sing:

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.**

This or an alternative invitation to communion may be said,

This is the table, not of the church, but of the Lord.
It is made ready for those who love him
and for those who want to love him more.
So, come, you who have much faith
and you who have little;
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.
It is his will that those who want to should meet him here.

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son;
Father, forgive us:

All **Save us and help us**

We sing,

**Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

Priest May God, our heavenly Father,
who has promised to forgive all those
who sincerely turn to him: have mercy on you.
✠May God deliver you from all your sins,
and strengthen you for service, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

A member of the choir is invited to light the Paschal Candle

Priest Generous God, we thank you for the gift of music
to inspire and uplift us as we offer you praise.
As once again we worship with the songs of praise,
may this candle remind us of the joy of restored life;
by your grace, grant that what we sing with our lips
we may believe in our hearts; and what we believe in our hearts
we may show clearly in our daily lives.

All **Amen.**

Gloria, Opening Prayer and Readings

Rejoicing in the all-forgiving power of God's love,
let us sing 'Glory to God':

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father;
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the +glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

God of welcome, your people are called to be distinct
not by width of separation but by depth of hospitality:
root out our resentments and free us to welcome all
who work for life and liberation, whatever path they tread;
through Jesus Christ, the companion of many ways.

All **Amen.**

We SIT for **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword.

For the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God**

We REMAIN SEATED to sing a version of Psalm 42:

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.

You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you

You alone are my strength, my shield,

to you alone will my spirit yield.

You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy.

You alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye.

You alone are my strength, my shield,

to you alone will my spirit yield.

You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

Father, you never forget us or turn away from us,
even when we fail you.

You sent your Son Jesus who gave his life for us.

He healed those who were sick, cared for those who were poor,
and cried with those who were sad.

He forgave sinners and taught us to forgive.

For all your love we give you thanks

in the way that Jesus showed us.

On the night before he died,

while he was having supper with his friends,

he took bread and offered you thanks.

He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat. This is my Body, which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup,

again he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying:

"Drink this, all of you.

This is my Blood of the new covenant;

it is poured out for you, and for many, that sins may be forgiven.

Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

All **So, as we do what Jesus told us,
we open our hearts to him;
we remember how he died and rose again
to live now in us.**

Priest Together with him we offer you these gifts:
in them we give you ourselves.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on this bread and this wine,

that they may be the +Body and Blood of Christ,

and that, sharing your life,

we may travel in your company to our journey's end.

All **With all your people
we give you thanks and praise
through the Son and in the Spirit,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Priest Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
through your goodness
we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands;
it will become for us the cup of salvation.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Eucharistic Prayer

We remain STANDING

Priest The Lord is here

All **God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Worship and praise belong to you, Father,
in every place and at all times.

You made us, all the people of the world,
and everything that is.

You give us the daylight to light our path
And Your Word to light up our minds.

Jesus was born among us to be our light in the darkness.

Your Spirit lives in us
so that we can look at the world with your eyes.

One day we will be with you in heaven,
but already we rejoice with the saints and angels,
and sing their joyful song:

All sing **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

All sing **+Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

You're my friend and you are my brother, even though you are a King
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone will my spirit yield.*

You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you

Martin Nystrom, based on Ps 42: 1-2

We STAND

The Liturgical Deacon proclaims the Gospel, saying,

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord.

I know them and they follow me. **Alleluia!**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All **+Glory to you, O Lord.**

✠ The mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.'

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

A SERMON is preached

*After the sermon, **PCC members are Admitted and Commissioned***

Affirmation of Faith

We **STAND**

All **We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

cf Ephesians 3

Intercessions

We **SIT or KNEEL**

This response may be used during the prayers:

Loving God, you have called us:
All **we recommit ourselves to your service**

The prayers may conclude with:

Merciful Father
All **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

We **STAND**

God is love, and those who live in love live in God,
and God lives in them.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**

All may exchange a sign of Christ's peace, as appropriate.

**PLEASE REMEMBER, SOME PEOPLE MAY PREFER
NOT TO OFFER A TACTILE GESTURE.**



As the altar is prepared we sing the offertory HYMN during which the financial offering from the people is presented at the altar.

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee Lord;
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:
be thou mine inheritance now and always;
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Irish c8th century
Tr Mary Byrne (1880-1931); versified Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)
From New English Hymnal, No. 339*

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT Table Prayers

Priest Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
through your goodness
we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made:
it will become for us the bread of life.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**