

26<sup>th</sup> April 2020



## Prayers - week 6

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Easter



## Doing what is important

Matthew 28:16-20

### ALONE IN WORSHIP

Lord, I come to you,  
longing to gather with your church,  
but physically alone.  
I come to allow the light of your love  
to drive darkness from my life.  
I come to seek your truth.  
I come to praise your glory.  
I come to offer you my life.  
I come to worship you Lord Jesus.  
Amen.

### I CANNOT TELL *Fullerton*

I cannot tell why he, whom angels  
worship,  
Should set his love upon the sons of  
men,  
Or why, as shepherd,  
He should seek the wanderers,  
To bring them back, they know not  
how or when.  
But this I know, that he was born of  
Mary,  
When Bethlehem's manger was his  
only home,  
And that he lived at Nazareth and  
laboured and  
So the saviour, saviour of the world,  
is come.  
I cannot tell how silently he suffered,  
As with his peace he graced this  
place of tears,

Or how his heart upon the cross was  
broken,  
The crown of pain to three and  
thirty years.  
But this I know, he heals the broken-  
hearted,  
And stays our sin, and calms our  
lurking fear,  
And lifts the burden from the heavy  
laden,  
For yet the saviour, saviour of the  
world, is here.

I cannot tell how he will win the  
Nations, how he will claim his  
earthly heritage,  
How satisfy the needs and aspirations  
Of east and west, of sinner and of  
sage.  
But this I know,  
All flesh shall see his glory,  
And he shall reap the harvest he has  
sown,  
And some glad day his sun will shine  
in splendour  
When he the saviour, saviour of the  
world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall  
worship,  
When, at his bidding, every storm is  
stilled,  
Or who can say how great the  
jubilation

When all the hearts of men with  
love are filled.  
But this I know,  
The skies will thrill with rapture,  
And myriad, myriad human voices  
sing,  
And earth to heaven, and heaven to  
earth, will answer,  
"At last the saviour, saviour of the  
world, is King."

### COLLECT FOR TODAY

Risen Christ,  
you filled your disciples with  
boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us to proclaim your risen  
life  
and fill us with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

### DOING WHAT IS IMPORTANT

*Matthew 28:16-20*

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

.....  
"When they saw him (Jesus), they worshipped him but some doubted."  
The disciples were not superhuman, and the resurrection was not a matter of wish fulfilment. The Great

Commission was not given to spiritual giants; it was given to an ordinary group of devoted, failure prone learners.

*Vinoth Ramachandra*

A comment upon verses 18-20: Not only is it a fitting conclusion to Matthew's Gospel it is a statement so magnificent that it would be hard to say anything more meaningful and complete in an equal number of words.

*Adolf von Harnack - liberal scholar*

Making disciples is not a special calling or a gift of the Spirit, it is a lifestyle – the way Jesus lived, and now the way he commands his people to follow...

The issue in evangelism centres in the enduring fruit of our labours. It does not matter how many we enlist for the cause, but how many become workers in the harvest. If we produce this lifestyle in a few, others will follow... Where do you want your life to count? Though the way Jesus made disciples does not promise immediate gratification, we are not living primarily for the present. Our satisfaction is in knowing that in generations to come, our witness will still be bearing fruit in an ever-widening circle of disciple makers to the ends of the earth and to the end of time.

*Robert Coleman*

We tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to

Christ. That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.

*Apostle Paul- Colossians 1:28-29*

### **A PRAYER FOR DISCIPLES**

Lord Jesus, wherever I go and whatever I do, my trust in you is tested. I confess that there are times when the cost of the challenge of living by faith is a price that feels too much to bear. So often, when my faith in you is questioned or challenged, I feel inadequate to respond. I do not feel wise enough to find the right words. I feel that my commitment to you is unworthy of you and that my knowledge of you and your teaching lets you down. Forgive my failure to stand by your truth and to demonstrate your love in my life. Forgive me, and help me so to speak and so to act that my life may honour you, my Lord and my Saviour. Amen.

### **A PRAYER FOR OLDER AGED DISCIPLES**

*Derek Prime – A Good Old Age*

Almighty God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus, I thank you for that time of my life when I first heard Your Son's call to follow Him. Thank you for the human instruments You used and their example of discipleship. Grant that where I am now, whatever my physical limitations, I may be eager to share the Saviour's call to others, and that although old I might be known supremely as an aged disciple, like Mnason (Acts 21:16). I ask this not for my own satisfaction, but for the sake of Him who died and rose again for me. Amen.

### **A PRAYER BY ST RICHARD OF CHICHESTER**

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee  
Three things I pray:  
To see thee more clearly;  
To love thee more dearly;  
To follow thee more nearly;  
Day by day. Amen.

### **A PRAYER IN DARK TIMES**

*Paul Mallard from "Invest Your Suffering – unexpected intimacy with a loving God"*

Lord, we don't know why you have sent this (coronavirus) and we would be really glad if you would take it away. But we trust you and we believe that your way is perfect. Help us to trust you more. And help us to see this as part of your plan for our lives. Lord, we want to serve you and be channels of blessing to others. Please help us not to get bitter; help us to use what you have sent us to help others as they struggle with the mysteries of your dark providence. Please give us the grace we need. Amen.

### **BLESSING**

May the God who told us to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth give us boldness and courage to share the Good News of his redeeming love. May he use us for the furtherance of his kingdom at home, at work and in our community and may his blessing be upon us today and always. Amen.

# Prayer topics for the week

If you would like the vicar to pray with you on the phone, call him on 01902 827214; or alternatively you can place a prayer request on our 'Prayer Chain' by phoning Joan on 01902 754526. She will have several people pray, in confidence, for your request.

**The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.**

*Psalm 145:18*

## For the World and our Nation and our City

- **Pray for people who will suffer from hunger** due to the pandemic. Pray particularly for Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Nigeria and Haiti.
- **Pray against oppression** and abuse of power as leaders bring in emergency measures.
- **Pray for people without access to healthcare** around the world who may get very ill from coronavirus. Pray for people living in rural areas and poorly equipped countries.
- **Pray for our Government;** to be honest and transparent as they manage the current crisis.
- **Pray for banks and lenders** to be fair and supportive; pray for those in financial hardship.
- **Pray for the very sick and those who are grieving** at this time.

## For St Jude's Church

- Pray for the peace of Christ to calm anxious hearts troubled by the fear of illness or the loneliness of isolation.
- Pray for families with young children agitated and anxious because of separation from friends, pray for their parents' patience and stamina for coping with home schooling and home working.
- Pray for the elderly in care homes in the parish, and for there to be adequate support and protection for the carers. The homes are: Abbeyfield Parkdale, Arbour Lodge, Atholl House, Eversleigh, Inspirations, Newbridge House, and Richmond Court.
- Jesus reassures us when he says, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Reflect upon and pray through the words of Isaiah 41:10 as they take on new significance in light of this - "Do not fear for I am with you, do not be afraid for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."
- Give thanks for Church Family members with birthdays in April. We remember, in particular: James Sturgeon, Daphne Ditch, Peter Holiday, and Joan Lloyd-Davies (who would have had a big party for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, had it not been for Coronavirus Lock Down).

## For our Mission Partners – Hope From Above (HFA)

- **Praise God** that technology allows us to continue to work despite the pandemic restrictions.
- Praise God for the good health of the HFA team and our partners.
- Praise God we've just been able to complete another aviation technology project for Voice of the Martyrs, transporting more Bibles to isolated communities.
- **Pray** that the global church will look outwards, rather than inwards, and seek God's will.
- Pray for the safe delivery of a technology shipment on the way to one of our partners.
- Pray for good progress as we reorganise our workshop in preparation for the next project.
- Pray for favourable weather to transport Bibles by air to an isolated people group.

## CONTACTING ST JUDE'S

Vicar	Rev Philip Robertson	827214	philipsrobertson@virginmedia.com
Church Wardens	James Sturgeon	269743	jmmsturgeon@gmail.com
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Occasional Minister	Rev Ivor Saunders	751162	ivor.john@outlook.com
Children	Nicky Robertson	827214	nicky_is@hotmail.com
Parish Office	CLOSED		

**Our building is shut.** For current news visit our Facebook Group and Website  
**St Jude's Church, % The Vicarage 21A St Jude's Road, Wolverhampton, WV6 0EB**  
[www.achurchnearyou.com/wolverhampton-st-judes](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/wolverhampton-st-judes)  
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