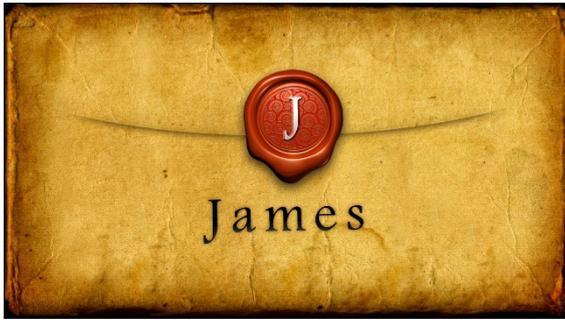


21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020



Prayers - weeks 14 &15  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays after Trinity



## The Wisdom of Submitting to God

James 4:4-10

---

### A CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 96:1-4*

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.

### CONFESSION *Common Worship*

My God, for love of you  
I desire to hate and forsake all sins  
by which I have ever displeased you;  
and I resolve by the help of your grace  
to commit them no more;  
and to avoid all opportunities of sin.  
Help me to do this,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Whatever was to my profit I now  
consider loss for the sake of Christ...  
I consider everything a loss compared  
to the surpassing greatness of knowing  
Christ Jesus my Lord.

*Philippians 3:7-8*

### FORGIVENESS ASSURED *Psalm 34:17-18*

Having confessed our sins to our  
heavenly Father, listen to his Word  
of comfort: "When the righteous cry  
for help, the Lord hears and delivers  
them out of all their troubles. The

Lord is near to the broken-hearted  
and saves the crushed in spirit."

### COLLECT FOR TODAY *Common Worship*

Faithful Creator,  
whose mercy never fails:  
deepen our faithfulness to you  
and to your living Word,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### KNOWING YOU *Graham Kendrick*

All I once held dear, built my life upon,  
all this world reveres and wars to own;  
all I once thought gain I have  
counted loss  
spent and worthless now, compared  
to this.

*Knowing you, Jesus,  
knowing you, there is no greater thing;  
you're my all, you're the best,  
you're my joy, my righteousness;  
and I love you, Lord.*

Now my heart's desire is to know  
you more,  
to be found in you and known as  
yours;  
to possess by faith what I could not  
earn.  
All-surpassing gift of righteousness.  
Oh to know the power of your risen  
life,  
and to know you in your sufferings;

to become like you in your death,  
my Lord;  
so with you to live and never die!

### **HEAVEN IS IN MY HEART** *Graham Kendrick*

*Ooooooh heaven is in my heart (x 4)*

The kingdom of our God is here.

*Heaven is in my heart.*

The presence of His majesty.

*Heaven is in my heart.*

And in His presence joy abounds.

*Heaven is in my heart.*

The light of holiness surrounds.

*Heaven is in my heart.*

We are a temple for His throne.

*Heaven is in my heart.*

And Christ is the foundation stone.

*Heaven is in my heart.*

He will return to take us home.

*Heaven is in my heart.*

The Spirit and the Bride say come.

*Heaven is in my heart.*

### **WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?**

*A reflection on James 4:4-10*

A Christian does not cheat on God. Their love for him is too precious and comes first. They do not risk becoming his enemy, because they remember he loves them like a jealous lover. But he is always quick to show them kindness whenever they are honest with him. As they submit themselves to God, and his ways, they discover he always draws close to them and lifts them up, like a good father picks up his young child when fallen. They have nothing to fear from evil in the world because the devil is no match for their God. They are always quick to change their ways when God shows them their errors, for they respect

his judgement, and they know the wisdom of showing him appropriate respect.

### **WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?**

*Epistle to Diognetus by Aristides, c.134 A.D.*

You cannot identify Christians from other people on the basis of nationality, language or customs. They do not live in cities of their own, or speak some strange dialect, or adopt some peculiar lifestyle. Their teaching is not the inventive speculation of inquisitive minds. They are not propagating mere human teaching as some people do. They live in Greek or foreign cities, wherever chance has placed them. They follow local customs in clothing, food and other aspects of life. But at the same time they demonstrate the strangely wonderful form of their own citizenship. They each live in their native land, but as strangers. They shoulder all the duties of citizenship, but are made to suffer like aliens. Every foreign country is to them a homeland, while every homeland is like a foreign country. They marry and have children just like everyone else; but they do not kill unwanted babies. They share a common table but not a common bed. They are present 'in the flesh', but they do not live 'according to the flesh'. They live upon earth, but they are citizens of heaven. They obey human laws, but surpass these laws in their personal lives.

They love everyone, but are persecuted by all.  
 They are unknown, and yet they are condemned.  
 They are put to death, and yet they are more alive than ever.  
 They are poor and yet make many rich.  
 They are short of everything and yet they live in abundance.  
 They are dishonoured and yet their dishonour becomes a glory.  
 Their names are being soiled; nevertheless, they stand innocent.  
 They are mocked and yet they bless in return.  
 They are treated outrageously and yet behave respectfully to all.  
 When they do good they are punished as evildoers.  
 When punished they rejoice as if being given new life.  
 They are attacked by Jews as aliens and persecuted by the Greeks.  
 Yet those who hate them cannot give any reason for their hostility.  
 To put it simply – life is to the body as Christians are to the world.  
 Their life is in the body but is not of the body.  
 Christians are in the world but not of the world.  
 Life is locked into the body, yet it holds the body together.  
 Christians are held like prisoners in the world, yet it is they that hold the world together.

### **HUMILITY**

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

*James 4:10*

If the only-begotten Son of God, the king of kings, did not think it

beneath him to do the humblest work of a servant, there is nothing which his disciples should think themselves too great or too good to do.

*J C Ryle*

### **MY EMPTINESS & WEAKNESS** *Martin Luther*

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it.  
 I am weak in the faith; strengthen thou me.  
 I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent that my love may go out to my neighbour.  
 I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust thee altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in thee.  
 In thee I have sealed the treasures of all I have.  
 I am poor; thou art rich and didst come to be merciful to the poor.  
 I am a sinner; thou art upright. With me there is an abundance of sin; in thee there is the fullness of righteousness.  
 Therefore, I will remain with thee of whom I can receive but to whom I may not give. Amen.

### **BLESSING** *Ephesians 3.15-19*

May the Father from whom every family in earth and heaven receives its name strengthen us with his Spirit in our inner being, so that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith, and that, knowing his love, broad and long, deep and high beyond our knowledge, we may be filled with all the fullness of God, today and forever more. 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.

**Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.**

*James 1:27*

## For the World

- **Pray to end child labour** - Globally, there are an estimated **152 million children** in child labour, nearly half doing dangerous work. There are concerns that lockdown has forced even more children into work. Pray for every child to have the opportunity to attend school and flourish.
- **Child poverty** – praise God for His gift of compassion, which led footballer Marcus Rashford to call for a change of heart by the Government to extend the free school meal vouchers scheme during the holidays. Pray for a compassionate heart, for faith and deeds to work together for the needs of others.

## For St Jude's Church

- **Pray for Year 6 pupils at St Jude's.** They are having their leaving assembly in the school playground this week so as to keep safe by socially distancing, and so that as many as possible may be present. Pray for it to be a dry and enjoyable and memorable event. Pray that they will come to treasure the bible we are giving each of them, because in it they can discover a hope and strength and a sure foundation in the kingdom of light in these times of dark uncertainty.
- **Reflect on James' teaching on the wisdom of submitting to God** (James 4:4-10) and pray over it. You could perhaps use Martin Luther's prayer on feeling empty and weak (on page 3 of this sheet), for those are feelings we can all have at this time of isolation. In faith take hold of God's promises in vs.8 & 10 so that as you humbly draw close to him in prayer and reading his word he will draw close to you and lift you up.
- **Pray for the re-opening of the church building for private prayer** on Wednesdays (3-4pm) and Sundays (10.30-11.30am). **This will start on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June.** Pray that although there are strict rules on how people circulate and where they may go, people coming will find it to be a place that is conducive to prayer and drawing close to the God who is in control of all that we are troubled by, and that he offers everyone a hope that can never be extinguished, through his amazing grace and love in the gospel of Christ.
- **Give thanks for the lives of Church Family members.** And we especially remember those with birthdays in June, in particular: Phil Robertson, Joan Bentley, Mervyn Horton and Amita Sudra. "Joyfully give thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves." (Colossians 1:12-13)

## For our Mission Partners – The Well (home of Wolverhampton Foodbank)

- Praise God for a full warehouse and financial provision that has covered the COVID-19 crisis.
- Pray for the many families in need and pray for them to encounter the love hope and peace of Jesus.
- Pray for wisdom for The Well leadership for the future and for continued favour regarding provision.
- Pray for God's protection over the team, trustees and every person and family we help.

## CONTACTING ST JUDE'S

Vicar	Rev Philip Robertson	827214	philipsrobertson@virginmedia.com
Church Wardens	James Sturgeon	269743	jmmsturgeon@gmail.com
	Pradip Sudra	334257	pradipsudra@gmail.com
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)  
[Facebook.com/ St Judes Church Community](https://www.facebook.com/StJudesChurchCommunity)