



## Jesus' unexpected ministry

### Morning Worship online during 3<sup>rd</sup> lockdown

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

#### ENCOURAGING WORDS

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. *2 Corinthians 4:8-9*

We need not despair of any man, so long as he lives. For God deemed it better to bring good out of evil than not to permit evil at all. *Augustine*

Don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today. *Jesus in Matthew 6:34*

I compare the troubles which I have to undergo in the course of the year to a great bundle of fagots (*sticks bound together for fuel*), far too large for us all to lift. But God does not require us to carry the whole at once. He mercifully unties the bundle, and gives us first one stick, which we are to carry today, and then another which we are to carry tomorrow, and so on. This we might easily manage, if we would only take the burden appointed for each day; but we choose to increase our troubles by carrying yesterday's stick over again today, and adding tomorrow's burden

**Mark 7:24-37**

Philip Robertson

to the load, before we are required to bear it. *John Newton author of 'Amazing Grace'*

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? .... Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God. *Psalm 42:1-2 & 11*

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> SONG – AS THE DEER PANTS Nystom

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 may 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'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.

## **THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH** *Psalm 18:1-6, 16. 19*

I love you, Lord; you are my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my saviour; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety. I called on the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and he saved me from my enemies.

The ropes of death entangled me; floods of destruction swept over me. The grave wrapped its ropes around me; death laid a trap in my path. But in my distress I cried out to the Lord; yes, I prayed to my God for help. He heard me from his sanctuary; my cry to him reached his ears.

The Lord reached down from heaven and rescued me; he drew me out of deep waters. He led me to a place of safety; he rescued me because he delights in me.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> SONG – FAITHFUL ONE**

*Brian Doreskens*

Faithful one, so unchanging;  
Ageless One, you're my rock of peace.  
Lord of all, I depend on you.

I call out to you again and again,  
I call out to you again and again.

You are my rock in times of trouble,  
You lift me up when I fall down;  
All through the storm  
Your love is the anchor -  
My hope is in you alone.

## **CONFESION** *Common Worship*

The Lord is watching everywhere,  
keeping his eye on both the evil and the good... The path of life leads upward for the wise; they leave the grave behind. *Proverbs 15:3 & 24*

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have wandered and strayed  
from your ways like lost sheep.  
We have followed too much the  
devices and desires of our own  
hearts.

We have offended against your  
holy laws.

We have left undone those things  
that we ought to have done;  
and we have done those things that  
we ought not to have done;  
and there is no health in us.  
But you, O Lord, have mercy upon  
us sinners.

Spare those who confess their faults.  
Restore those who are penitent,  
according to your promises declared  
to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
And grant, O most merciful Father,  
for his sake,  
that we may live a disciplined,  
righteous and godly life,  
to the glory of your holy name.  
Amen.

Now that we have been put right with  
God through faith, we have peace  
with God through our Lord Jesus  
Christ. Amen. *Romans 5:1*

## **3<sup>RD</sup> SONG – O LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO**

*George Matheson & Albert Pease*

O Love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms  
red  
Life that shall endless be.

### THE WORD OF THE LORD

The holy Scriptures are our letters  
from home.

*Augustine*

### BIBLE PASSAGE *Mark 7:24-37*

<sup>24</sup> Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. <sup>25</sup> In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. <sup>26</sup> The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

<sup>27</sup> ‘First let the children eat all they want,’ he told her, ‘for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.’

<sup>28</sup> ‘Lord,’ she replied, ‘even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.’

<sup>29</sup> Then he told her, ‘For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.’

<sup>30</sup> She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

<sup>33</sup> After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man’s ears. Then he spat and touched the man’s tongue. <sup>34</sup> He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, ‘*Ephphatha!*’ (which means ‘Be opened!’). <sup>35</sup> At this, the man’s ears were opened, his tongue was loosed and he began to speak plainly.

<sup>36</sup> Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it.

<sup>37</sup> People were overwhelmed with amazement. ‘He has done everything well,’ they said. ‘He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.’

### JESUS’ UNEXPECTED MINISTRY

#### THE FAITH WE HOLD *The Apostles’ Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son,  
our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the  
Father,  
and he will come to judge the living  
<sub>3</sub> and the dead.

believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### **4<sup>TH</sup> SONG - BLESS THE LORD** *Matt Redman*

*Bless the Lord O my soul,  
O my soul.  
Worship His Holy name.  
Sing like never before.  
O my soul.  
I'll worship Your Holy name.*

The sun comes up  
It's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again.  
Whatever may pass  
And whatever lies before me  
Let me let me be singing  
When the evening comes.

You're rich in love  
And You're slow to anger.  
Your name is great  
And Your heart is kind.  
For all Your goodness  
I will keep on singing.  
Ten thousand reasons  
For my heart to find.

And on that day  
When my strength is failing.  
The end draws near  
And my time has come  
Still my soul will  
Sing Your praise unending.  
Ten thousand years  
And then forevermore.

#### **PRAYING THAT LEADS TO DOING**

The Lord will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his

heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.

*Isaiah 40:11*

Prayer without action grows in powerless pietism, and action without prayer degenerates into questionable manipulation. If prayer leads us into a deeper unity with the compassionate Christ, it will always give rise to concrete acts of service.

*Henry Nouwen*

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION**

Let us pray to God,  
who alone makes us dwell in safety:  
For all who are affected by coronavirus,  
through illness or isolation or anxiety,  
that they may find relief and recovery:  
Lord, hear us,  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation  
at this time,  
and shaping national policies,  
that they may make wise decisions:  
Lord, hear us,  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical  
researchers,  
that through their skill and insights  
many will be restored to health:  
Lord, hear us,  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,  
for the gravely ill and the dying,  
that they may know your comfort and  
peace:

Lord, hear us,  
Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for  
whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

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

#### **COLLECT FOR TODAY** *Common Worship*

Almighty God,  
in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature  
by the riches of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives  
make known your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

#### **LORD'S PRAYER** *Common Worship*

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.

#### **5<sup>TH</sup> SONG – IN CHRIST ALONE**

*Keith Getty & Stuart Townend*

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song,  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought  
and storm.

What heights of love, what depths  
of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when  
strivings cease,

My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless Babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,  
Up from the grave He rose again.  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.  
For I am His and He is mine,  
Bought with the precious blood  
of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Could ever pluck me from His hand,  
'Til He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I stand.

#### **BLESSING**

May the light of Christ surround you,  
the love of Christ enfold you,  
the power of Christ protect you,  
the presence of Christ watch over you;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon  
you now, and for ever more.  
Amen.

# Prayer topics & News 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.

**I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace.  
In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.**  
*John 16:33*

## The World

- **Coronavirus** – pray for the families grieving for loved ones, and for the seriously ill. We lift up to God the critical care nurses and doctors working under extreme and difficult pressure, we pray for their mind, body and spirit. Pray for the Lord to help our hospitals not to be overwhelmed. Pray for the healing of our nation and the world, Lord have mercy.
- **America** – pray for peace and restraint across the nation following last week's storming of the US Capitol by President Trump's supporters.

## St Jude's Church

- Pray for the Chandra family. Sudesh and Sue have tested positive for Coronavirus. Sue remains at home but Sudesh is in hospital receiving help with his breathing. Asha is also in hospital, but for some general tests after being unwell. Pray too for others you know who are unwell.
- The coronavirus infection rate in Wolverhampton continues to rise, on 9<sup>th</sup> January it stood at 995 per 100,000 almost twice the national average. Pray for the rate of increase to slow as we play our part in following guidance on what we are to do to curb spread of the disease.

*Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens, your everlasting arms are there to hold safe all those who trust in you. Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

- Pray for church family, and those in the communities we live in, struggling to live in lockdown.
- Pray for Dawn Peach and her family. Her mum died on Tuesday after a long time of care from Dawn.
- Pray for the vicar and wardens as they progress DAC approval for church lighting and electrical work.

## Our Mission Partners – Good Shepherd

- **Giving thanks** for the support we are receiving at the start of 2021. "It was another busy day with our food service yesterday (@12<sup>th</sup> Jan) and the donations of food & money really does make a huge difference."
- **Reflecting on 2020** - From the excitement of opening our new premises in January, to the sadness and the difficulties posed by Covid, it has been a truly challenging year.
- **Praise** – (because) "out of that has emerged an even stronger community spirit in Wolverhampton, with so many charities and agencies joining the Council and our local MP's to work together to make a difference."
- **Pray** – (because) there are more tough times ahead in the short term.
- **Pray with hope** that the tide will turn after that, and we can make 2021 the year to help even more people make substantial and long-term changes to their lives.
- **Pray** for our service users who come to us for help, and that they will come to feel the love of Christ.

## CONTACTING ST JUDE'S

Vicar (day off – Friday)	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 (Worship with us online at YouTube / Facebook Group / Website)

St Jude's Church, c/o The Vicarage 21A St Jude's Road, Wolverhampton, WV6 0EB

YouTube Channel: St Jude's Church Wolverhampton   Facebook.com/St Judes Church Community

Website: [www.achurchnearyou.com/wolverhampton-st-judes](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/wolverhampton-st-judes)