

Church Alive Worship

for Sunday 26th July

Patronal Festival – James the Apostle



Welcome to our Church Alive service. Whilst we are not all together in church, we are together in spirit. We have tried to adapt our normal service from screen to paper and have provided links to music where possible if you would like to sing. *A big thank you to Debbie Thomson for recording the songs for us. These can be found on our YouTube channel with the links under the title – just hover and click on it*

Today we are celebrating the festival of St James, our Patron Saint, who, together with his brother John and the apostle Peter, was one of the three closest companions of Jesus. James was also the earliest recorded martyrs of the Christian church (Acts 12.2). Today we gather to praise God for James, who offers an encouragement to all of us to understand that God works with imperfect people like you and me in his work to redeem the world and we give thanks for our church community and for all those who have gone before us in faith at St James.

Opening Song: Majesty, worship his Majesty
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f13MmM-MjhI>

Majesty, Worship His Majesty
Unto Jesus Be Glory Honour And Praise
Majesty, Kingdom, Authority
Flows From His Throne
Unto His Own
His Anthem Raise

Majesty, Worship His Majesty
Jesus Who Died, Now Glorified
King Of All Kings.
Jesus Who Died, Now Glorified
King Of All Kings.

So Exalt, Lift Upon High
The Name Of Jesus
Magnify Come Glorify
Christ, Jesus The King

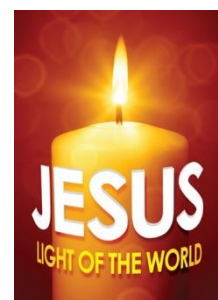


Thanksgiving

Today we celebrate our Patron Saint, James, and our church. What aspects of our church and our church life would you like to say thank you to God for? Take a moment to say thank you now.

Opening Prayer: *If you are able, and it is safe to do so, light a candle at this point*

Lord, we light this candle, to remind us that you are the light of the world. As we gather together in spirit, make our voices ready to sing your praise; our hearts open to receive your love and our minds alive to your Spirit. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



We seek God's healing and forgiveness

We are sorry for the times we judge others and find them wanting.

Forgive us and help us.

We are sorry for the times we are selfish and think only of our own needs and not of other's needs.

Forgive us and help us.

We are sorry that we get busy and distracted and we don't make time for you.

Forgive us and help us.

We hear words assuring us of God's forgiveness

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Bible Reading – Matthew 20:20-28 A mother's request

²⁰ Then the wife of Zebedee came to Jesus with her two sons, bowed before him, and asked him for a favor.

²¹ "What do you want?" Jesus asked her.

She answered, "Promise me that these two sons of mine will sit at your right and your left when you are King."

²² "You don't know what you are asking for," Jesus answered the sons. "Can you drink the cup of suffering that I am about to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

²³ "You will indeed drink from my cup," Jesus told them, "but I do not have the right to choose who will sit at my right and my left. These places belong to those for whom my Father has prepared them."

²⁴ When the other ten disciples heard about this, they became angry with the two brothers. ²⁵ So Jesus called them all together and said, "You know that the rulers of the heathen have power over them, and the leaders have complete authority. ²⁶ This, however, is not the way it shall be among you. If one of you wants to be great, you must be the servant of the rest; ²⁷ and if one of you wants to be first, you must be the slave of the others— ²⁸ like the Son of Man, who did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life to redeem many people."

Introducing the Theme & Learning Spaces *Not being able to break out into our learning spaces, here are a few thoughts about the theme for today. For young people you can use the Children's and Youth sheets that are being sent out separately.*

What we have in this story is a very human situation. The mother of James and John had been left behind with her husband when they left the family fishing business to follow Jesus without a second thought. She was putting the case that her sons deserved to be rewarded, but her request for preferential treatment was not part of Jesus' plan. James' selfish wish to sit a Jesus' side in his Kingdom was cleverly turned on its head by Jesus to teach the disciples that greatness comes through service and it is a hard path to follow. We are also, like James and the other disciples, on a pilgrimage through our lives. We can think of times when we have also behaved in ways needing forgiveness from God when we have been foolish and self-centred. It is encouraging for us that James, our patron saint, made this mistake, but Jesus still loved him and saw the good side in him that would stand the test of being a follower of Jesus beyond Jesus' resurrection to have a significant role in the Early Church.

All Age Creative – A Stone Cairn

Find some stones in the garden. Wash them and choose one. Have a look at your stone and think about its colour and shape and markings, it is unique just like you are unique. Think about how it got chipped or smoothed by the elements. We are also chipped or broken or made smooth or just reshaped by our life experience.

Stones on the beach are usually smooth as the water from the sea has washed over them many times, slowly smoothing them over time. When we begin our journey of faith we are baptised and we ask God, through the gift of his Holy Spirit, to guide us and to smooth off our rough edges as we journey with him, transforming us into the people he calls us to be.

Have a look at the picture below. It shows a cairn, a pile of stones put together as a signpost for a trail to point people in the right direction. Church is a bit like this. We are all different and we are invited by Jesus to come together to be a community and together we can build something that works as a signpost to Jesus and God's kingdom. Build a cairn in your garden today or perhaps over the summer, bringing single stones back from the places you visit.

Picture Reflection – prepared by Brenda



- Spend a few minutes with the picture and imagine that you are in the scene on the top of that hill....

- The pile of stones is called a cairn and cairns are familiar to hill walkers...they show the way to pilgrims. What do you notice about the different stones in the cairn?

- Our church family here at St. James' is a bit like a cairn... we continue the role of Jesus' first disciples helping others along their journey of life....which of

the stones in the picture might be you?

- How is it encouraging for us that James is remembered on his feast day on an occasion when he was not being 'saintly'?
- We all have faults and rough edges, but we can all be part of Christ's cairn...reflect on how we can help others in the coming week.....

Song: Here is love vast as the ocean

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4_AQ2y7n_s

Here is love, vast as the ocean
Loving kindness as the flood
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom
Shed for us His precious blood
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten
Throughout heav'n's eternal days

So, here is love, vast as the ocean
Loving kindness as the flood
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom
Shed for us His precious blood
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten
Throughout heav'n's eternal days

On the mount of crucifixion
Fountains opened deep and wide
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide
Grace and love, like mighty rivers
Poured incessant from above
And heav'n's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love

O Lord, Hear Our Prayers *Here are a few suggested topics for you to pray about. If you have specific prayers you would like included in future weeks then do send them to Linda and she will add them in*

We pray for...

Our world: Continuing to suffer through the effects of the Coronavirus; particularly those countries like India and Pakistan where the healthcare systems are under increasing strain...for leadership that expresses compassion and wisdom in their handling of the situation
For an end to systemic racial injustice, for peaceful, safe protests and a more just world to emerge where people have equal opportunities and treatment.

Our communities: For all those living in our parish. For our local businesses that are reopening, to be able to operate safely for both their staff and customers. For those who continue to be fearful of the effects of the relaxation of restrictions. For all who continue to support those who are isolated and alone is our community. For our local police and authorities who continue to operate on the frontline

Our church: Giving thanks for our church on our Patronal Festival, for all those who have gone before us in faith at St James and for the flower team and all who will come to see the mini flower festival in the church grounds this weekend. Praying for God's guidance for how we move forward as a church in these strange times. For all the members of our church family in their daily life and discipleship. For generous giving to enable our work to continue and flourish.

For the sick and the dying: for all who are unwell at this time, for those suffering from long-term illness and worried about their treatments, for all who are caring for family at home. For all those for whom this time is affecting their mental health.

For those who have died; may they rest in peace and rise in glory;
for the sadness of those who mourn and for those who are unable to attend funerals to say their farewells because of the restrictions in place. For all whose world has changed immeasurably following the death of a loved one.

Thanksgiving: For the gift of faith. For our family and friends and those who will be able to come together for the first time in months. For the beauty of creation that gives us joy and hope that God cares for us all.

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

We say the Lord's Prayer:

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.

Song: You shall go out with joy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tq6ls1-0fs>

You shall go out with joy
And be let forth with peace,
And the mountains and the hills
Will break forth before you.
There'll be shouts of joy
And the trees of the fields
Will clap, will clap their hands.

And the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
And the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
And the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
While you go out with joy.

Sending Out Prayer

May our loving God accept us for who we are;
may Jesus hold us close;
may the Spirit help us risk ourselves for love;
and may the blessing of God be among us and remain with us always.
Amen

The Peace

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen