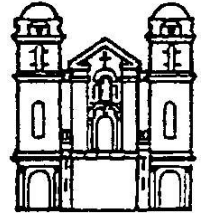


12/20



This week at the Church of
St James the Greater
Leicester

www.stjamesthegreater.org.uk
office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk



29 MARCH 2020 – PASSION SUNDAY

Prayer for the Week

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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.

Our Prayers are asked for:

Those working in our healthcare system, those working to secure our food chain from farmers to supermarket delivery drivers, those working in essential infrastructure and the teachers looking after keyworkers children. Those whose incomes have been lost and those working in the civil service who are ensuring that the unemployed get the benefits they need. Our scientists and others who are working around the clock to produce a vaccine to protect the most vulnerable. Our politicians that they will be able lead us through these unprecedented times.

All prevented from worshipping with us, remembering this week

George Daley : Gwen Leather : Marilyn Dorum

Unwell

Renie Lewis : Ann Blanchard : Anthony & Barbara Green : Owen Shepherd
Peter Browne (Penny Judge's brother) : Josephine Chizema (Tony's mother)
and those with Coronavirus symptoms from our community and beyond.

ALL CHURCHES ARE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE We will reopen as soon as permitted by the Government – details will be posted on our website, Facebook page and on the porch noticeboard once this occurs.

The Vicar Writes ...

This week's Gospel reading is long - nearly a whole chapter of John - we may even be grateful that we do not have to stand through it in church! Describing the sickness, death and raising of Lazarus, it works as a kind of tipping point in the Gospel - the culmination of the miraculous signs of Jesus' ministry, and a provocation into either discipleship, or persecution. Reading on we are told how the council sees this as the last straw necessitating Jesus' removal from the scene. At this time we may want to reflect on what this story tells us about life and death, and through both of them God's compassion for us. In the midst of this lengthy reading we have what is well known as the shortest verse in the Bible: "Jesus wept."



When the Gospels were first written they were probably read either entire, or in much larger chunks than we usually do, almost certainly as part of the keeping of Lent and Easter. In our isolated Lent, we have the gift of time to follow this ancient practice, and to read longer and think deeper on what we read. A chapter or two a day, or even more, but surrounded with some time for silence and reflection will be richly rewarding

Lectionary readings for the week

Ezekiel 37. 1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

John 11.1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Contacting the Team

You may not be physically seeing us but we are still working!

Andrew can be contact by email revdaquigley@gmail.com or 0116 254 4113

The Church Office can be contacted by email office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk or 07749 227109 (weekdays only please unless an emergency)

Further email details are on our website www.stjamesthegreater.org.uk

Our Facebook page is being updated most days

<http://www.facebook.com/st-james-the-greater-100660021339625>

Resources for Home Worship

Broadcast Media

Daily Service	Mon-Fri at 9.45am	Radio 4 LW
Choral Evensong	Wed & Sun at 3.30pm	Radio 3
Sunday Worship	Sun at 8.10am	Radio 4
Morning Worship	Sun – check schedule for time	BBC I
Songs of Praise	Sun – check schedule for time	BBC I

Online

www.churchofengland.org

Many churches and cathedrals have put services online – let us know your favourites so we can share next week.

A Prayer for Lockdown *Courtesy of Guildford Cathedral*

Ever present God,
be with us in our isolation,
be close to us in our distancing,
be healing in our sickness,
be joy in our sadness,
be light in our darkness,
be wisdom in our confusion,
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,
that when the doors reopen
we may with the zeal of Pentecost
inhabit our communities
and speak of your goodness
to an emerging world.
For Jesus' sake.
Amen.

KEEPING IN TOUCH This bulletin will be emailed every week if possible - if you do not have access to the internet please ask a relative or friend to contact the Church Office to be included. ***We are unable to print until Government restrictions are eased, if you are able to share news with those who do not have internet, they will be most grateful.***

HELP FOR PEOPLE SELF-ISOLATING We have volunteers who have offered to help members with shopping or other essentials who have nobody else to help them and are not able to get online shopping. ***Please contact the Church Office for further details of this and other neighbourhood schemes being established.***

ARTICLES If you would like to share what you are doing during your isolation, perhaps a recipe to use those tins we have all stockpiled or a poem/joke to brighten our day, please email to office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk by Wednesday midday for inclusion.

GIVING TO ST JAMES We know that many of you will see your income reduced and other hardships so we are most grateful to all those who have already pledged to continue their giving through this difficult time. ***If you normally give through gift aid envelopes, stewardship envelopes or cash on the plate, please contact the Church Office if you are able to switch to a standing order, we also can accept cheques through the post.***

JOHN RAVEN The Raven family extends its warmest thanks to all those who so kindly send cards and letters, and to those who attended John's memorial service. The thoughts of so many friends has been a great support to them at this time.

VICKY ROE Over the first weekend in March, I was in Worcester with the Friends of Cathedral Music National Gathering. There I met up with Glynn and Sue Richerby, who now live there and are well established members of the Cathedral congregation. Glynn has recently been granted Permission to Officiate in Worcester Diocese. After Evensong on the Sunday, I went back to their house on the hill for a delicious



tea of homemade pastries, scones and cookies. An added joy was seeing Anna, their daughter, who was visiting from South Africa – she had amazing news that she is expecting her first child. They sent their love to everyone at St. James the Greater and I passed on ours to them. Last week, Glynn attended John Raven's Thanksgiving Service, where he helped to give the address.

LENTEN HOUSEGROUP at Cherry's (in isolation, but supportively on Tuesdays). We have considered the parable of the Talents (Luke 19 vv 12-26) in which the master says "Well done, you are a trustworthy servant. You have been faithful to what I entrusted to you" (v 17). God has entrusted his creation to us, but does this parable suggest we **MUST** be active in our task, rather than passive? What ways are there, accessible to us, to follow this? Eco hint: make your mark – plant a tree. See, for example, The National Forest website

www.nationalforest.org/get-involved/plant-a-tree

Weekly Quiz

The Jackson family have kindly offered to forward a weekly quiz set by a member of their family. It's on a different topic each time and today's choice is Geography. Enjoy!

1. Which is the most southern city in the world?
2. What is the population of Australia
A. 23.9 million B. 24.6 million C. 25.2 million
3. Which country has the highest population density out of India or Japan?
4. How many counties border Wiltshire and what are they?
5. What continent is Tuvalu in?
6. How many countries does the River Danube flow through?
7. How long is the Grand Canal in Venice?
8. How many countries border Latvia and what are they?
9. How many species of mammals are there in Mongolia?
10. Where is Romania on this map?

