

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 25th July 2021, St James

Old Testament: Jeremiah 45: 1-5
Psalm: Psalm 126
New Testament: Acts 11:27-12:2
Gospel: Matthew 20: 20-28

Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Revd. Fiona Beale

Martin Luther King Jr states that 'Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.'¹ Jesus demonstrated this perfectly on a daily basis.

Personally, I believe all are great, and in what Martin Luther King Jr said and especially what Jesus is saying, the greatest of us are the ones who serve. From what I have witnessed in the Beaminster Area Team, there are a lot of servants I could list today.

We are all capable of serving, surely then, we can all be leaders for the sake of the Gospel. Servant leaders share power, put the needs of others first and help people develop. Look around you today or think of those you know - who could use your support and are in need? Helping might just mean picking up the phone and giving them a ring or taking them out for a cuppa, for a chat or simply praying with one another. Let me encourage you, as Jesus became a servant for the sake of all humanity and demonstrated great humility, love, patience and great sacrifice amongst his own, that we can do the same within our communities. Amen

Collect for St James

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.



Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am, Sunday Worship; Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm

¹Martin Luther King Jr. Quotes, <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/757-everybody-can-be-great-because-anybody-can-serve-you-don-t-have>.

