

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: 19th September 2021, sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Old Testament: Jeremiah 11: 18-20

Psalm: Psalm 54

New Testament: James 3: 13-4:3, 7-8a.

Gospel: Mark 9: 30-37

Reflection on James 3: 13-4:3,7-8a reading, written by David Moxon, Copyright ©The Archbishops' Council 2017.

Every Christian wears an invisible sign around their necks, which reads 'work in progress' or 'be patient with me, God has not finished with me yet', or 'you should have seen what I was like before'. James reminds us that conversion is an ongoing evolution as we are transformed spiritually. This is not a super-religious, pious activity, but a day-by-day growing in integrity, faithfulness and hope. We are always growing out of the ways of the world and always growing into the ways of God. There is some ambiguity in this that every Christian learns to understand and work with. We have been saved, we are being saved, we shall be saved.

Each little victory over the ways of the world such as gluttony, aggression or hardness of heart is a possibility of growth in God. By contrast, James' description of envy, leading to murder, is the most dramatic of all the New Testament, challenging us to be so careful with the state of our emotions. We are called to see ourselves as learners in 'the way' by paying deep attention to the state of our heart and by shaping what we feel and think with consistent, attentive prayer, so that we are guided by the light within us rather than the shadows around us.

We are on week two of the Diocese, Generous giving campaign this week we reflect on the generosity of God and how this has impacted our lives as disciples. We serve such a generous God, who provides for our needs, even if it isn't always equally shared. Let us give thanks for his generosity and pray that he will guide us in ways to being generous to others.

Collect for the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity.

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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

Worship to enjoy at home

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

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.



