

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: 26th September 2021, Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Old Testament: Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16, 24-29

Psalm: Psalm 19: 7-14

New Testament: James 5: 13-20

Gospel: Mark 9: 38-50

Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Barbara Simmonds

In the verses we've read today, James is bringing his letter to a close, and he does that by talking about the importance of prayer. He says that whatever circumstances we find ourselves in, we should pray, whether we are suffering or we are cheerful. As we grow in our faith, we come to rely more and more on prayer, on surrounding all we do, sad things as well as happy things, with prayer and an acknowledgement of our need for God's direction in our lives. And we accept the part we have to play – prayer is not just the job of the clergy or a selected few in the church, it is for all of us.

When talking about prayer for healing, James says 'The prayer of faith will save the sick', and this can be difficult for us to understand, because I expect we have all had experiences when despite the prayers of many, the person prayed for has not been healed. When we pray for God's will to be done, we know that while his will is ultimately for the best for the person we are praying for, it might not be what we would like to happen.

Collect for the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity.

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they
find their rest in you: pour your love
into our hearts and draw us to
yourself, and so bring us at last to
your heavenly city where we shall see
you face to face; 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.

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.

