

## 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: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021, Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**

**Old Testament: Isaiah 53: 4-12**

**Psalm: Psalm 91: 9-16**

**New Testament: Hebrews 5: 1-10**

**Gospel: Mark 10: 35-45**

### **Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Revd. Canon Alastair Wheeler**

Sometimes when we think we understand what's going on, it's very hard to get our minds round it if the situation has actually changed!

Jesus and the core disciples are heading 80 miles to Jerusalem, and Jesus is trying to explain that he is going there to die, not rule as Messiah.

James and John were locked into traditional hopes of Messiah, the Christ, the King, and they wanted to sit in the traditional seats of power, left and right of the throne.

Jesus tells James and John that they don't know what they are asking for about being enthroned beside him. When they press him he says something that sounds like "OK fine, you've asked for it, you'll get it, but it won't be what you expect!" It almost sounds as if Jesus is exasperated with them!

And history records that all of the twelve did die martyrs deaths.

Then Jesus teaches about what leadership is going to mean in his new reality of the kingdom. It must not be just a different form of the same old human hierarchical institutions – he is bringing in a reign of mutual care and compassion – servant-hood for one another, concern for those on the margins, those in need.

It's to be a new way of working together where the leaders are servants of the whole community. It's not about sitting on thrones and human power, but serving one another, caring for one another, sharing compassion, love and challenge.

### **Collect for twentieth Sunday after Trinity.**

God, the giver of life,  
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your  
Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to  
live the gospel of Christ and make us  
eager to do your will, that we may  
share with the whole creation  
the joys of eternal life; 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.

