

St James Thought for the Day – Monday 20th April 2020

Praying for people

- Revd Kit Gunasekera

Dear Friends,

As we enter a 5th week of the current restrictions on movement, when we might be aware that what we might be able to do to help others are restricted, we know that there is one thing we can all do, with no restrictions, and that is to pray.

In Colossians 1, in verses 3 and 9, Paul writes how he gives thanks for the Church in Colossi, and how he and his team never stop praying for them.

“We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,^[e] ¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you^[f] to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.”

These seem very appropriate things to pray for each other in these days. The most important aspect of prayer, is to be honest with God. Jesus taught His disciples to get to the point rather than adding extra flowery speech - Matthew 6:5-8. God knows what we want to say before we say it - Psalm 139:4 Sometimes we feel connected to God when we pray and other times we don't. Its irrelevant how we feel, as **we are** connected to God, because of Jesus death and resurrection, so we can pray with confidence – 1 John 5:14-15

So why pray? So that, in this Easter season, so we may develop a relationship with the **living** God, so we can express our concern for others, so we can see prayers answered, so we can give thanks. And if our prayers are not answered how we hoped, so we may seek God in that too, and so learn and grow in our faith, and learn further how to pray according to His will.

We may find it helpful to pray prayers that other people have written. There is a whole wealth of prayer resources online. The church of England have this page - <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer>

We can pray on our own, and we can pray with others. As well as a prayer diary, over the next couple of weeks we will experiment with opportunities to

join in morning and night prayer via zoom for those who might benefit from that.

This week, we welcome you to join us via Zoom for Night prayer at **9.30pm** on:

Tuesday 21st - link is <https://zoom.us/j/98844385753> Meeting ID: 988 4438 5753

Thursday 23rd - link will be sent out on Wednesday

God bless and love,

Kit.

Bible Passage: Colossians 1:1-14

- <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+1%3A1-14&version=NIV>

Song: Everyone needs compassion – you can listen to it here

– <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=taluSSa9vYo>

Everyone needs compassion
A love that's never failing
But let mercy fall on me
Well everyone needs forgiveness
The kindness of a Saviour
The hope of nations

Saviour

He can move the mountains

My God is Mighty to save

He is Mighty to save

Forever

Author of salvation

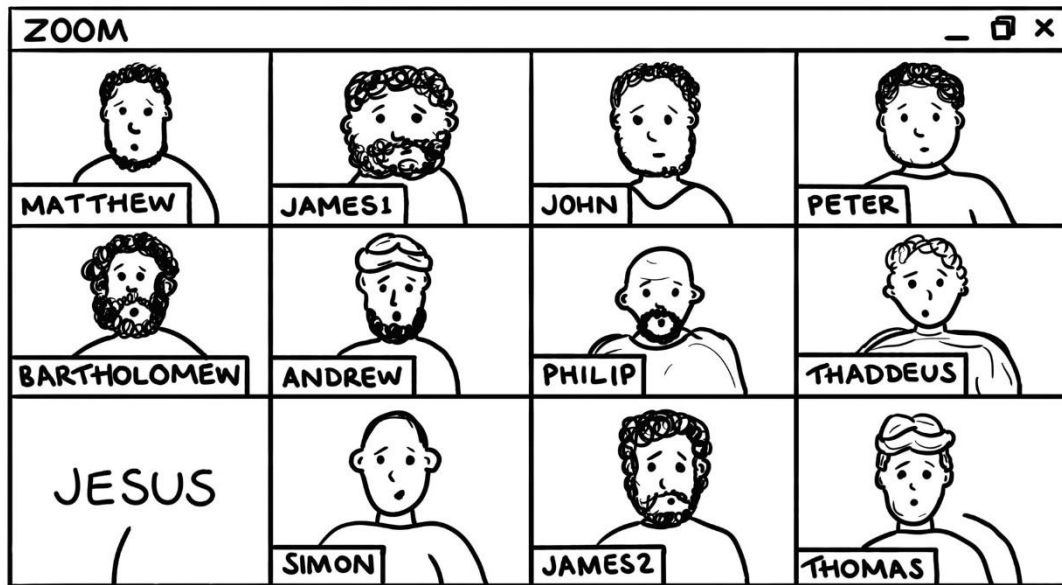
He rose and conquered the grave

Jesus conquered the grave

So take me as You find me
All my fears and failures
And fill my life again
I give my life to follow
Everything I believe in
And now I surrender
(I surrender)

Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing for the glory of the risen King
Jesus

Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing for the glory of the risen King



HEY.

HOW ON EARTH IS
HE IN THE MEETING?

UNLESS HE
TURNS ON HIS CAMERA,
I WILL NOT BELIEVE IT

Tim Wakeling