



Chet Valley Churches



Holy Communion for the Feast of St James

25th July 2021

Welcome

We are here to worship, to give God our praise, our love and our thanks; to seek healing for each other; and to ask forgiveness for those things which separate us from God and neighbour.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful people,
and kindle in us the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

♪ Hymn: Lead Us Heavenly Father, Lead Us

**Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but thee;
Yet possessing every blessing,
If our God our Father be.**

**Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
All our weakness thou dost know;
Thou didst tread this earth before us,
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;
Lone and dreary, faint and weary,
Through the desert thou didst go.**

**Spirit of our God, descending,
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
Love with every passion blending,
Pleasure that can never cloy:
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.**

🙏 Prayers of Penitence

Jesus says: Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.



**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself, and cleanse us from all our sins that we may behold the glory of the Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect

Merciful God, whose holy apostle Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ and followed him even to death: help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world, to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Acts 11:27-12:2

At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword.

For the Word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126

The Lord has done great things for us.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with songs of joy.
The Lord has done great things for us.

Then said they among the nations,
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
The Lord has indeed done great things for us, and therefore we rejoiced.
Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, as the river beds of the desert.
The Lord has done great things for us.

Those who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed,
will come back with shouts of joy, bearing their sheaves with them.
The Lord has done great things for us.

🎵 **Hymn: Will You Come and Follow Me**

**Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?**

**Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?**

**Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
In you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see
If I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
And never be the same?**

**Will you kiss the leper clean
And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean
In you and you in me?**

Will You?

**Will you love the 'you' you hide
If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same?**

**Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around
Through my sight and touch and sound
In you and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.**

**In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:20-28

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.'

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon [Rev David]

A couple of years ago I took my mother on a nostalgia trip to the Llŷn Peninsula in North Wales. It was where some of her—my—family came from. She hadn't been able to visit there for many a year so it was quite a journey. The thing that astounded me was her memory of where the little roads actually went—where they would reappear if we took them. After a while we came to Aberdaron. Whilst there she reminisced about a journey she'd made from Aberdaron to the island of Bardsey which is about two miles off the coast. More of that in a moment. As she stayed in the car my wife and I went to visit the parish church where previous vicars had been the poet R S Thomas and the liturgist Jim Cotter. As we wandered in I picked up a little guide, on the cover of which was an injunction to *saunter*. Along with the injunction was the derivation of that word: saunter, from the French “Sante Terre”—holy ground. A reminder that when we saunter we are doing so over holy ground. Most apposite for that part of Llŷn, as Bardsey is often referred to as the island of 20,000 saints. It was the main reason my mother, and my father, made the crossing with a group of others as they went on a pilgrimage to Bardsey.

Today, the 25th July, is the feast day of St James. What do we know about him? I'm sure that many would be able to recall that he was a disciple of Jesus; that he was the brother of John; that he was a fisherman on Lake Galilee; that he was the son of Zebedee. But what else do we know of him? We get told in the gospels that both he and John were given the nickname Boarneges by Jesus—it only appears once in the New Testament—meaning *Sons of Thunder*. We do also know that he, along with John and Peter were privy to some of the most intimate moments in Jesus' ministry. He shares in the raising of Jairus' daughter, he is present at the Transfiguration and in the Garden of Gethsemane. He also has, in today's Gospel reading, a mother who speaks asking that her two sons will sit at the right and left of Jesus when He sits in glory. Which leads to that ominous passage which we've just heard of them needing to drink the same cup as Jesus and being baptised with the same suffering. But we are also aware—as the writer of Acts has told us—he does indeed suffer. Of the twelve disciples he, and Judas, are the only two whose death we read about in the New Testament. Herod Agrippa executes James in the hope that by doing so he will put an end to this new-fangled teaching. Little hope indeed.

How he came to be the patron saint of pilgrims one will never really know but suffice to say he did and there's the link with saunter. Since making a pilgrimage, being a pilgrim, turns the soil over which we tread into holy ground. Pilgrimages require us to take our time, to drink in deeply of why we're making the journey and what we need to reflect upon on the way. The destination is important but so is the travelling. We need a goal but we mustn't rush to get there. A pilgrimage isn't in essence a race. Today people will make pilgrimages to places of quiet, of sanctity, of reverence and history. There are many such places in our land without having to go abroad. But a true place of pilgrimage will be a place that will encourage us to get closer to God, to pray and worship to discern through the Spirit what our life paths ought to be. Yes there are grandiose places—Santiago de Compostella, Rome, Jerusalem—but there are also smaller, lesser frequented places where earth and heaven seem to touch and kiss each other. It might be your own back garden—take your time and saunter there.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Holy God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we make our prayer to you, saying: Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Grant to all who seek the assurance of your presence, your power and your peace. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Grant your healing grace to all who are in need that they may be made whole in body, mind and spirit. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Grant to all who minister to those who suffer, wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful and lift up all who are brought low. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may ever be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The almighty Lord, who is a strong tower for all who put their trust in him, whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth obey, be now and evermore our defence. May we believe and trust that the only name under heaven given for health and salvation is the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Peace to you from God our Father who hears our cry.
Peace to you from Jesus Christ whose death brings healing.
Peace to you from the Holy Spirit who gives us life and strength.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Hymn: Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You

**Brother, sister, let me serve you;
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
And companions on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
'Til we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven,
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you;
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too.**

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right to give you thanks in sickness and in health in suffering and in joy, through Christ our Saviour and Redeemer, who as the Good Samaritan tends the wounds of body and spirit. He stands by us and pours out for our healing the oil of consolation and the wine of renewed hope, turning the darkness of our pain into the dawning light of his kingdom.

Therefore with angels and archangels we say:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends, and taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come; your will be done; on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The Communion

Prayer after Communion



Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: He Who Would Valiant Be

He who would valiant be
'Gainst all disaster,
Let him in constancy
Follow the Master.
There's no discouragement
Shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent
To be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round
With dismal stories,
Do but themselves confound:
His strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might,
Though he with giants fight;
He will make good his right
To be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, thou dost defend
Us with thy Spirit,
We know we at the end
Shall life inherit.
Then, fancies, flee away!
I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labour night and day
To be a pilgrim.



Blessing

To God the Father, who loved us and has accepted us in Jesus; to God the Son, who loved us and washed us from our sins through His death on the cross; to God the Holy Spirit, who pours out the love of God into our hearts; to the One True God be all love and all glory for time and eternity: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit rest upon you and all for whom we have prayed. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Amen.**

