



**Chet Valley Churches**  
**Last Sunday Praise**  
**25 July 2021**



# Welcome

Welcome to Last Sunday Praise. In this file you will find links to the songs we have chosen for our worship. Click on the links to take you to each song.

## Introduction

If you're picking this up as part of our local Chet Valley Churches, you'll know that we tentatively hoped we might run this month's Last Sunday Praise as a 'live' service. However, that didn't work out, so here we are online. We have all felt the last year to be an interesting journey, with a lot of things to learn and changes to accommodate. With this in mind, our theme for this month's Last Sunday Praise is 'Pilgrimage – a journey of life'. Whatever the journey holds, we can praise and worship God, our heavenly Father, starting with some lively songs and a fantastic hymn!

*♪♪ All the songs link to YouTube. Just click with your mouse on the link, which will take you to a song with on-screen words. You may have to skip a few YouTube adverts if we have chosen songs that are not currently on the Chet Valley Churches YouTube channel.*

### ♪♪ **How wonderful, how glorious**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXmVaDpylq0>

### ♪♪ **Jubilate everybody**

<https://youtu.be/ZwSKZeg-8Y0>

### ♪♪ **Guide me O thou great redeemer**

<https://youtu.be/5j48TLIRb4Q>

## **Pause for thought, and prayer...**

This Sunday the anglican church celebrates the Feast of St James, leading us to choose the pilgrim theme for this service. We often describe our lives as a journey – sometimes as a journey of faith. But to be a pilgrim is to undertake a journey with a particular focus and to put our trust in God who is our guide. We may not know where he is leading us, either spiritually or physically, but we know that he is trustworthy and cares for each one of us. As we come into a different phase of dealing with the effects of Covid, we need to look to God for the next step in our journey, and to take it in faith.

*The Collect is a special prayer written for each day. Perhaps you might read the prayer aloud, line by line, stopping to think about each line as you do so.*

**The Collect—A Special Prayer for the Day. This one reflects the Feast of St James, the patron saint of pilgrims**

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.

## ♪♪ **Holy holy**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owlDeVmM3z8>

## ♪♪ **We'll walk the land**

<https://youtu.be/YXYxmU73-yo>

## ♪♪ **Amazing grace**

[https://youtu.be/gD3E5\\_Pgfw](https://youtu.be/gD3E5_Pgfw)

## **Pause for thought, and prayer...**

There is power in praise and worship. If we feel troubled, or uncertain, it is good to praise God, just as it is good to praise him when we are joyful. We often pray for those who are suffering hardship (and of course we should do so) but let's also pray for those whose joy is infectious, that they might effectively 'gossip the gospel' on their journey. Let's focus on our own lives and ask God's forgiveness for the times when we fail to trust him as our guide..

*Perhaps you might like to ponder the following prayer.*

## **A prayer for our lives**

Heavenly Father,

Forgive us for the times when we grumble because we think you don't understand what our lives are like,

forgive us for the times when we are self centred and fail to notice the needs of others

forgive us for the fears and troubles that eat away at us, casting a shadow over the possibility of joy in your presence,

forgive us for forgetting that you have been here before us.  
Help us to worship you in our lives as well as our praises, and to live in the expectation that you will change us to become the people you want us to be,

## ♪♪ **Great is the darkness**

[https://youtu.be/wP\\_BUHwweS4](https://youtu.be/wP_BUHwweS4)

## ♪♪ **When we walk with the Lord**

<https://youtu.be/nVNyfEav3GU>

## **Bible Reading**

*Mark 1 verses 16-20*

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>18</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>19</sup> When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets.

<sup>20</sup> Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

## **Talk**

*David Owen has written this reflection.*

I wonder how Zebedee felt. No, not the springy character from the Magic Roundabout (for those old enough to remember him) but Zebedee the fisherman of Galilee. There he was, sitting in

his fishing boat mending his nets with his two sons and the rest of the crew when along comes this man who calls to the two sons, and off they go! Without a by your leave or any explanation. Well that's how Mark's gospel describes the calling of James and John. I do wonder what it was like. Mark has a habit of telling the stories of Jesus in a very direct and abrupt way. For him there is no subtle pre-amble or gentle conversation. It's wham, bam, done. If, as scholars think, Mark received his material from Peter then maybe it's not surprising that the gospel is written in such a way but for us reading or hearing it now there is much that we'd like to know to fill in those gaps.

Zebedee may well have felt exasperated, let down or, he may well have been put on notice that when the time was right this man Jesus was going to do this. We'll never know. What we do know is that for the brothers, James and John, life was not to be the same again. Once they'd upped and gone to follow Jesus then their lives were on a different path. Jesus was to take them on a journey which would be enriching, challenging and ultimately, for one of them, lead to death (martyrdom).

During our lives we too make numerous journeys. Some of them may appear mundane - the walk to the shops or out with the dog - other journeys might be more exciting: visiting friends or family, or even to a place of significance.

Certain places are significant. In Jesus's ministry James and John accompanied him to the top of the mount of Transfiguration, they were there on the journey to Jerusalem. These were places of great significance were they saw Jesus in a different light. And they were there in the garden when he was arrested. After that, other than in general terms, James is not named. He is obviously one of the eleven who encounter Jesus after the resurrection but it isn't until we get to the Acts of the Apostles that his name

is specifically mentioned and that in the context of his death. Herod Agrippa decides to persecute the growing church and had James executed. The first apostolic martyr.

Tradition has it that James's body was taken to Spain and laid to rest in Santiago de Compostella. No one can tell. Suffice to say that in consequence of this, since the 9th century, Santiago became a destination for pilgrims. A journey many still undertake. Because of the preponderance of scallop shells found on the beaches in that part of Spain, the scallop shell has become the token and sign of a pilgrim.

Let's never forget that life is a journey. As we respond to Jesus' call we too are pilgrims on that journey. Perhaps, the next time you are on a beach and you see a scallop shell, why not pick it up to remind yourself of our pilgrimage to a heavenly city - "for here we have no lasting city, but we are looking (*as pilgrims*) for the city that is to come." (Hebrews 13.14)

♪ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet

[https://youtu.be/Y\\_nwWsve2dk](https://youtu.be/Y_nwWsve2dk)

## Time for prayer...

Let's take time to pray for:

- The people we live amongst – family, neighbours, friends far or near, acquaintances
- People we may not know who are experiencing depression, sadness or hardship
- People who share the joy of a journey with Jesus

- Members of church congregations tackling their own decisions about life and faith, and those who have found church online to be their way forward
- People who are ill, or who feel isolated and alone
- Those who are fearful of change and of the journey ahead
- Ourselves, that we might be willing to step out in faith and trust God to lead us

And a prayer which comes from Churches Together:

Lord God, we thank you  
for calling us into the company  
of those who trust in Christ  
and seek to obey his will.  
May your Spirit guide and strengthen us  
in mission and service to your world;  
for we are strangers no longer  
but pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom.  
Amen.

*You might want to pray aloud the prayer that Jesus taught his first disciples. Use whatever version or language you wish!*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as it is 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.

♪♪ **Jesus be the centre**

<https://youtu.be/884tPls0Ie0>

♪♪ **Today I choose to follow you**

<https://youtu.be/Hho7TvFXXIE>

♪♪ **Lord for the years**

<https://youtu.be/CdI4v0eIRWU>

## **A blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.

Amen