

Yateley Baptist Church, Sunday 31 May 2020

Opening Prayer

Hymn: Praise! 563

Speak, Lord, in the stillness
speak your word to me;
hushed my heart to listen
in expectancy.

2 Speak, O gracious Master,
in this quiet hour;
let me see your face, Lord,
feel your touch of power.

3 For the words you give me,
they are life indeed;
living bread from heaven,
now my spirit feed.

4 Speak, your servant listens,
be not silent, Lord;
let me know your presence,
let your voice be heard.

5 Fill me with the knowledge
of your glorious will;
all your own good pleasure
in my life fulfil.

Emily M Crawford (1868-1927)

Reading: James 1:16-27, ESV

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Continues on next page →

¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Hymn: Praise! 518

Come down, O love divine!

Seek out this soul of mine

and visit it, with your own ardour glowing;

O Comforter, draw near,

within my heart appear,

and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

2 O let it freely burn

till earthly passions turn

to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;

and let your glorious light

shine ever on my sight,

and make my pathway clear, by your illumining.

3 Let holy charity

my outward vesture be,

and lowliness become my inner clothing;

true lowliness of heart

which takes the humbler part

and for its own shortcomings weeps with

loathing.

4 And so the yearning strong

with which the soul will long

shall far surpass the power of human telling;

for none can guess its grace

till they become the place

in which the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Bianco da Siena (15th Century), translated by Richard F Littledale (1833-1890)

Prayer

Hymn: Praise! 559

Our father God, your name we praise,
to you our hymns addressing,
and joyfully our voices raise,
your faithfulness confessing.

Assembled by your grace, O Lord,
we seek fresh guidance from your word:
now grant anew your blessing.

2 Touch, Lord, the lips that speak for you;
by Scripture's wisdom train us:
revive our hearts by what is true;
from every wrong restrain us.
Give us each day our daily bread;
may hungry souls again be fed;
may heavenly food sustain us.

3 Lord, make your pilgrim people wise,
the gospel message knowing,
that we may walk with lightened eyes
in grace and goodness growing:
your word supplies your people's need,
one holy law for us to heed,
from heaven your wisdom flowing.

4 As with your people here we meet
your grace alone can feed us:
as here we gather at your feet
we pray that you will heed us.
O Lord divine, the kingdom's powers,
the praise, the glory, all are yours:
may Jesus Christ still lead us!

Leonardt Clock (16th Century), translated by Ernest A Payne (1902-1980)

Sermon: James 1:19-27 – On Hearing and Doing

James 1:19 may be easy to recite, but is it easy to live up to?

1. 'Shut Up and Be Righteous'? (19-21)

- Talk vs righteousness
- Listening, speaking and anger

2. Act on What You've Heard (22-25)

- Don't be 'hearers only'
- James' mirror
- Two men, two prayers...
- If you don't do it then you didn't really hear it!

3. Is Your Religion Benefiting Anyone Else? (26-27)

- The greatest commandments
- 'Paying it forward'
- Achievable service
- Our ultimate destination

Hymn: Praise! 849

Lord of the cross of shame,
set my cold heart aflame
with love for you, my Saviour and my Master;
who on that lonely day
bore all my sins away
and saved me from the judgement and disaster.

2 Lord of the empty tomb,
born of a virgin's womb,
triumphant over death, its power defeated;
how gladly now I sing
your praise, my risen King,
and worship you, in heaven's splendour seated.

3 Lord of my life today,
teach me to live and pray
as one who knows the joy of sins forgiven;
so may I ever be,
now and eternally,
one with my fellow-citizens in heaven.

Michael Seward (1932-2015)

Closing Prayer