Greetings!

I enclose the service for Sunday, when we celebrate the feast of St James the Apostle. Many thanks to Preb Jan for the reflection.

A traditional hymn for a saint's day; 'Who are these like stars appearing?', sung by Wakefield Cathedral choir:

https://youtu.be/L3V6tb3vg5s?list=RDL3V6tb3vg5s

The last verse of Graham Kendrick's worship song 'The Servant King' is quoted in the service, and refers to our gospel reading, Matthew 20.28. Herewith a version by the man himself.

https://youtu.be/zCAdWs-ZyEk

The cathedral at Santiago de Compostella, in northwest Spain, is dedicated to St James, and is the final destination of the Camino pilgrimage across part of France and northern Spain. I was fortunate to walk part of it with a group of singers a few years ago, singing mass in the cathedral. I would hasten to add we were not singing in the following video, but it shows the massive Botafumeiro (censer) being swung, a great tourist spectacle. There are smoke stains on the nave ceiling!

https://youtu.be/FaFqodavn0I

Brahms' 'German Requiem' is not a requiem in the traditional sense, but he sets a series of biblical texts. The first movement, Selig sind, quotes Matthew 5.4 (Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted) followed by verses from today's psalm (126 vv 5,6). The phrase "those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy", first introduced by the tenors, reaches a glorious musical climax. The following performance is by WDR Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, conducted by Jukka-Pekka Saraste.

https://youtu.be/4Q2D36G0aUw

Finally, thanks to Martin for this lively worship song;

'Lord I Lift Your Name on High' - Rick Founds

A popular worship song with actions to help all hard of hearing. A colourful version by young singers.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4B2WJcvNm8

with all good wishes,
Chris

James the Apostle 10 a.m. 26th. July 2020.
Come, for your name fills our hearts with longing and is ever on our lips; yet who you are or what your nature is, we cannot say or know. Come, Alone to the alone. Come, for you are yourself the desire that is within me. Come, my breath and my life.
Come, the consolation of my humble soul.
Come, my joy, my glory, my endless delight.
(St. Symeon [949-1022])

CONFESSION Forgive us, Lord, when we are distracted by the affairs of this world; forgive our selfish ambition, when we put ourselves first at the expense of others.
God, give us grace to follow his saints in faith, hope and love. (Common Worship).

COLLECT Merciful God, whose holy apostle St. 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, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

READINGS. Psalm 126, Acts 11.27-12.2, Matt 20.20-28.

REFLECTION. Russia, China, the USA, the EU, the UK and more besides. All of them seek it. What? Why, power! The world runs on it, be it economic, ownership of land/sea or military might. Alas, the tragedy of this is that, seemingly, the use of power has become admissible in all levels of society. The mother of James and John seeks a place of power in the new Kingdom for her sons. She's assuming this Kingdom will be like any other. Jesus, though, turns the world upside down, emptying himself of power. James, as he continues to follow Christ Jesus, finds himself changed. His greatness comes in serving the Gospel which leads him to a martyr's death. Power is a kind of hunger within us all but Christ can and does open our minds to his way.
Remember that Jesus says to his followers that they, indeed us, are not to try to be better than one another. We need, like St James, to find ways of serving each other as we serve our Servant King.

PRAYERS
We pray for the nations of this divided world, for leaders who are driven by pride and selfishness, whose people are oppressed and fearful. We pray for an end to prejudice by race, colour or creed, to war and conflict.

We pray for your church here on earth, that we may set an example of cheerful service to others, that we may be bold and innovative in reaching out to our communities.

We pray for those who are ill or affected by natural disaster, those who mourn loved ones, mentioning those known to us…….
We give thanks for the gift of healing, praying especially for those who care for patients affected by Covid 19. Bless the work of those who are striving to find new treatments and vaccines, and all who work in the NHS and caring professions. We pray for spiritual healing in our wounded society.

A moment of silence, to listen to your still small voice.

A prayer for ourselves;
So let us know how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him,
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving. *(Graham Kendrick).*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in your favoured version).

WE SHARE THE GRACE.

FINAL PRAYER
Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest, to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward; except that of knowing that we do thy will. *(Ignatius of Loyola).*