

A few words on the readings Patrick White

There are alternative Old Testament readings.

Wisdom 1: 16-2:1, 12-22 Often referred to as the Wisdom of Solomon, the Book of Wisdom was written in about 50 BC. It was written in the city of Alexandria, a place of learning with a large Jewish population. It was often the case in those times that a writer placed his work under the patronage of a more famous person. Solomon was renowned for his wisdom, hence the use of his name. The author stresses in his work the immortality of the soul. In this passage he condemns those who make light of belief in God and parodies their disdain for the righteous who follow God's commandments and believe in eternal life.

Jeremiah 11:18-20 Jeremiah is writing nearly 60 years before the author of Wisdom. His prophecies do not find favour with his friends and family and some seek to kill him. Jeremiah complains to God about his fate – *But I was like a lamb led to the slaughter* -and asks God to take up his cause and punish his enemies. *Let me see your retribution upon them for to you I have committed my cause.*

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Two forms of wisdom exist and they are opposed to one another. The first is human wisdom which is marked by pride and rivalry. The second is divine wisdom which is marked by purity, goodness and peace. James asks the Christian to follow the path of peace and to draw nearer to God who will draw nearer to the Christian

Mark 9:30-37 On 3 occasions in Mark's gospel Jesus speaks of his coming passion and death. The disciples find this hard to accept and see this as the failure of his mission. Meanwhile they argue about who was the greatest. Jesus tells them again that following him means being a servant to others. He focuses their attention on a child. They are to care for the young and the vulnerable and in so doing they will welcome Christ into their lives and therefore God himself .

Radio & TV:

Sunday Worship Radio 4 8.10am *Hope in Despair* The Right Rev Dr. David Bruce of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland reflects on how hope may be found in situation of despair. Service led by the Rev Joanne Smith

Songs of Praise BBC 1 at **1.15 pm** The Rev Kate Bottley joins Christians in Hackney as churches plan for Harvest Festival.

Choral Evensong BBC Radio 3 Sunday 3pm from Edington Priory. Wednesday 22nd **4.00pm** from the Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick

The Daily Service (15 m) Weekdays at 9h45 on BBC Radio 4 long wave.

Daily Hope is a free phonenumber of hymns, reflections, and prayers ring **0800 804 8044**.