

17th May

**May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

As you walk, try and remember the story from last week. Imagine that you are one of the disciples.

- Who are you?
- How do you feel?
- What do you remember about the events on the beach?

**Read John 21:15-22**

<sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup>A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup>Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." <sup>19</sup>(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

<sup>20</sup>Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" <sup>21</sup>When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!"

The whole encounter on the beach, speaks of how those who are often overlooked or forgotten, know what it is to work hard through the long dark nights and with a lot of love, faith and hope can change the world.

- Who has helped to feed you in your faith journey?
- What makes you full? Where do you turn when you are in need to sustaining?

Look at what is around you, notice how creation sustains life and provides food for a variety of creatures. How many different living things can you see being fed on your walk?

God, we praise you that you have created a world that provides food for everything that lives here. Help us not to take the food that is on offer for granted but to celebrate the diversity and the nourishment that is all around us. Amen.



## 17th May The Way of Light Week 5

One thing I have asked of the Lord, this is what I seek:

**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;**

to behold the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple.

Who is it that you seek? **We seek the Lord our God.**

Do you seek Him with all your heart? **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Do you seek Him with all your soul? **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Do you seek Him with all your mind? **Lord, have mercy.**

Do you seek Him with all your strength? **Amen. Christ, have mercy.**

### STF 513

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| 1 Take this moment, sign, and space ;<br>take my friends around ;<br>here among us make the place<br>where your love is found. | 3 Take the tiredness of my days,<br>take my past regret,<br>letting your forgiveness touch<br>all I can't forget.         |
| 2 Take the time to call my name,<br>take the time to mend<br>who I am and what I've been,<br>all I've failed to tend.          | 4 Take the little child in me,<br>scared of growing old ;<br>help me here to find my worth<br>made in Christ's own mould. |
| 5 Take my talents, take my skills,<br>take what's yet to be ;<br>let my life be yours, and yet,<br>let it still be me.         |   |

John L. Bell (*b.* 1949) and Graham Maule (*b.* 1958)

To whom shall we go?

**You have the words of eternal life,  
and we have believed and have come to know  
that You are the Holy One of God.**

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of endless glory.

### Reading John 21:15-25

We continue with the encounter on the shore of the Tiberas Sea, where we were last week. Jesus found his disciples going back to what they were used to. Long dark and cold nights out on waters that could get stormy at any moment, fishing.

Last week we read that it was the disciple that Jesus loved that recognised him first and at the end of the reading we hear a bit more about that disciple, but we will come back to that. For finally Peter is able to speak with Jesus. The language of the first part of the encounter suggests that Peter is uncomfortable, unsure of how to act around the man he promised he would never deny. But Jesus still invited them all to the well-earned breakfast on the beach.

The dawn has now broken and they have finished the bread and the fish. In my mind I have always seen the exchange of words happening around a fire, with the other disciples listening in. But on reading a little, I get a sense that Jesus and Peter could have been conversing on their own. If the dawn has broken, the day will soon be hot and the smell of 153 fish would probably be unbearable, attracting wildlife and probably dropping the value of the fish at market. So, I now imagine the other disciples leaving Jesus and Peter to talk, as they take the haul to market.

Jesus doesn't begin by going back over what has happened, however, the way the question is phrased, it could be read into, as though he is trying to get Peter to confess that he had done something wrong. 'Do you love me?' answer, 'yes of course.' Reply 'feed my lambs.' Not the reply that Peter was possibly expecting. No accusation, but an action. This goes on twice more, again no accusations, just actions. Feed and tend the lambs and the sheep. The young of faith and the old. Those who have experience and their own wisdom and those who are still jumping around the field enjoying themselves.

Verse 18 seems to point us towards the challenge of coming out of lockdown, as certain groups have certain restrictions lifted, there will be those who have little choice in where they go and what they are permitted to do. They will be at the hands of others. It is here that Jesus seems to be calling Peter. Tend them. Feed them. So how do we receive that call? How do we make sure that in times when we don't have the freedom of youth, how are we feed? How do we receive a different way of being Jesus' disciples and how do we follow?

### **Prayers for others**

*Spend some time bringing your prayers to God.*

Christ, as a light illumine and guide me.

Christ, as a shield overshadow me.

Christ under me;

Christ over me;

Christ beside me on my left and my right.

This day be within and without me, lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;

in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.

This day be within and without me, lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

Christ as a light;

Christ as a shield;

Christ beside me

on my left and my right.

## STF 673

- 1 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 ?
- 2 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 ?
- 3 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 ?
- 4 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 ?
- 5 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.

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)

Do you love me? Asks the Lord **Yes Lord, you know we love you.** Feed my lambs.

Do you love me? Asks the Lord **Yes Lord, you know we love you.** Tend my sheep.

Do you love me? Asks the Lord **Lord, you know everything, you know we love you.** Feed my sheep.

## Blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,  
wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,  
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
once again into our doors.

