

10th May

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

Before you begin your walk:

- Have you decided your route?
- Do you know what to expect whilst walking? From: The weather, The path conditions, The views?

Go for your planned walk and along the way, find a place to stop for a momentary pause.

**Read John 21:1-14**

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some."

So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup> That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup> But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup> When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

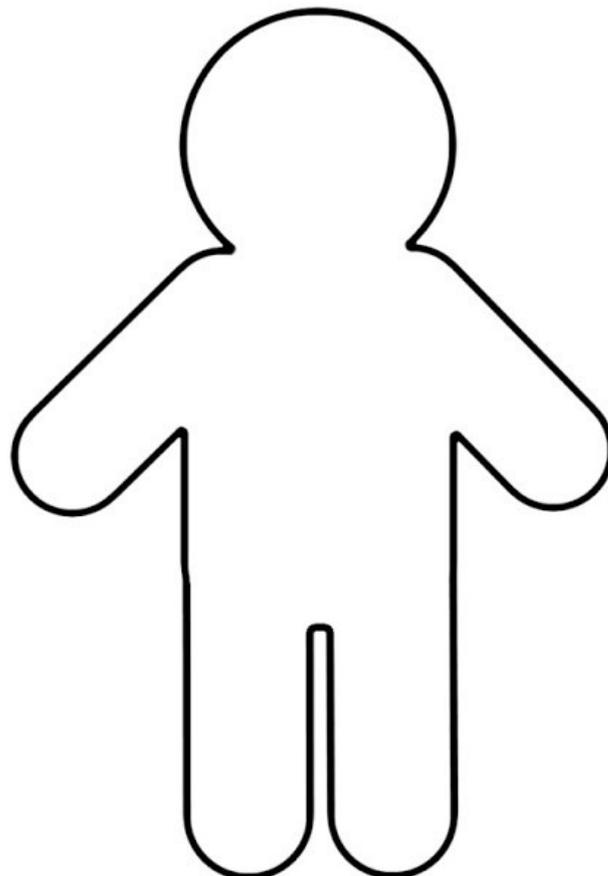
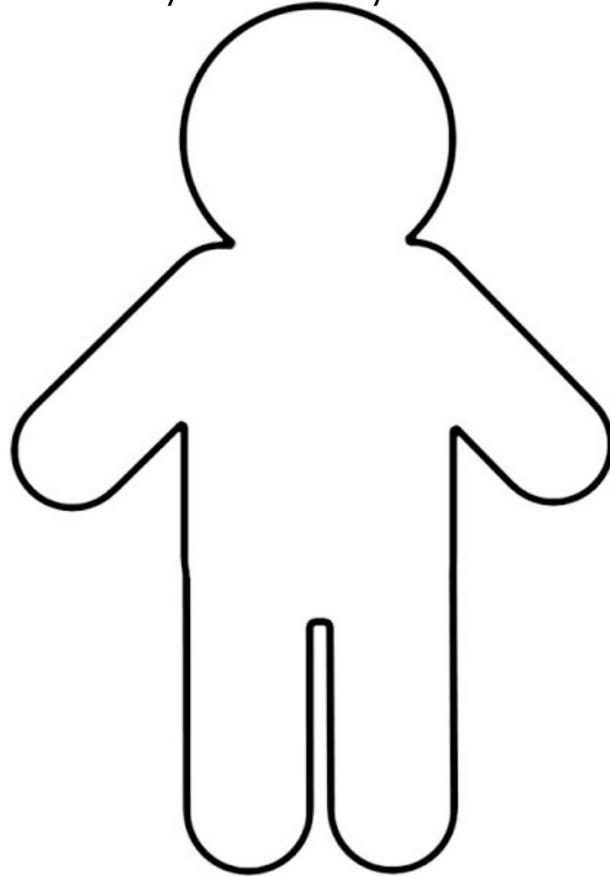
Here we have the disciples unsure what to do next, so they go and do something very normal for them, they go fishing with no success. A stranger calls to them and tells them to try again. For whatever reason they do as they are told and suddenly their nets are bursting. We often think it is Peter who recognises Jesus, but it is the beloved disciple who spots Jesus. When they are all ashore Jesus invites them to breakfast. Peter goes back to count and bring some more fish to add to Jesus' already cooking breakfast.

- Can you remember Peter's story? How would you describe him? Why do you think he left the boat but then went back to count all the fish?
- Have you ever been told, how to do something you are good at? Did you follow their advice? What did you learn?

Take some time to pray, asking God to help you receive advice on what you think you already know and thank God that no matter what we have done or how we feel, we are always invited to the feast.

### **Activity: BBQ on the beach**

Think about the characteristics of Jesus and Peter, use the outlines to think of the things that can be seen on the outside and those that are within. What do you notice about the two characters? Do you notice any similarities with yourself?



## 10th May The Way of Light Week 4

Lord, save us from ourselves.

**As we continue to do the same things over and over, expecting different results.**

Lord, save us from doing too much.

**When we go fishing every day and do not notice you waiting with a meal on the beach, for us.**

Lord, save us from doing too little.

**When we say we love you, and do not put that love into action.**

Lord, save us and be known to us in this moment, together and apart. Amen.

### STF 30

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| 1. Jesus, stand among us<br>at the meeting of our lives,<br>be our sweet agreement<br>at the meeting of our eyes.<br>O Jesus, we love you, so we gather<br>here,<br>join our hearts in unity and take away<br>our fear. | 2. So to you we're gathering<br>out of each and ev'ry land,<br>Christ the love between us<br>at the joining of our hands.<br>O Jesus, we love you, so we gather<br>here,<br>join our hearts in unity and take away<br>our fear. |
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Let us use the words from Psalm 34: 1-4 to bring our praises to God. Let us pray.

**I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

**My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and be glad.**

**O magnify the LORD with me,  
and let us exalt his name together.**

*Bring your praises to God*

**I sought the LORD, and he answered me,  
and delivered me from all my fears.**

Nothing is hidden from your eyes, your light shines into the darkness of this world and into the shadows of our hearts. You see our thoughts, our motives, words and actions, and we confess that we must cause you sadness in our response to all that you have given us.

**Forgive us, we pray and by your grace and mercy bring us to that place where your light might shine from us and reveal nothing but your eternal love. Amen**

In you alone we put our hope, God the Father, Creator and Sustainer, who gives all good things seen and unseen. In you alone we put our hope, God the Son, Saviour and Redeemer, who died for our sins and rose again. In you alone we put our hope, God the Spirit, Teacher and Comforter, who moves us to sing. In, you alone we put our hope, now and always. Amen.

## Reading John 21:1-14

This next encounter with Jesus, finds us back by the Sea of Tiberias. For some of the disciples, this is where they were called from to follow Jesus. So it seems almost natural to find the fishermen heading back to this way of life. You can probably imagine the conversation at home, once Jesus had disappeared. The practicalities of how to run a house without an income or now that the mid-life crisis was over, they could get back to the way things used to be. Whatever the conversation or thinking in certainly Peter's mind, here they are, fishing.

With all that is going on around us, even this simple act of going back to what we used to do is a challenge. When we can gather in person again, is it business as it was, or has this time left a mark on our lives, that makes us rethink whether we should just pretend nothing happened. The disciples spent three years with Jesus, so it must have changed the way that they saw and approached their lives.

I find it interesting that when they do get back to the boats, the fish elude them. They will have fished whilst with Jesus, more for food rather than as a livelihood, but they can't catch a thing. It's not a good first day back. They must have been close enough to the shore to hear Jesus, who tells them to try again, this time there is success and with this the disciple Jesus loves recognises who is calling to them.

At this Peter gets dressed and jumps into the water heading for shore. It is here on the shore of Tiberias that Peter will get to face Jesus, the first time they have a personal encounter since Peter's betrayal. The putting on of his clothes and his return to the boats to count the fish, set up this encounter to be one that is uncomfortable for Peter, as is often our own encounters when we feel ashamed or uncertain having caused possible pain to someone. But Jesus doesn't touch on this at this moment, all he does is invite them to eat together with him.

Sometimes we can be caught up with having the right words to say or trying to make a convincing argument about who Jesus is and our own personal encounters with God, that we forget that sometimes the simplest way of speaking about God, is to invite people to bring what they have and come and eat.

## Prayers for others

Let us take some time to offer to God those situations that are on our hearts and mind and continue to pray to for:

### The Church

- our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world
- our circuit and those who work within it
- our local fellowship community

## The World

- the on-going wars
- places with famine, drought, and poverty
- places where abuse and fear control
- the environment

## Our community

- your neighbours
- friends

## Your life

- loved ones
- your own joys, fears and sorrows,

## Lord's Prayer

### STF 250

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| 1 Jesus calls us ! O'er the tumult<br>of our life's wild restless sea,<br>day by day his voice is sounding,<br>saying : 'Christian, follow me.' | 3 Jesus calls us from the worship<br>of the vain world's golden store,<br>from each idol that would keep us,<br>saying : 'Christian, love me more.'       |
| 2 As of old apostles heard it<br>by the Galilean lake,<br>turned from home and toil and kindred,<br>leaving all for his dear sake.              | 4 In our joys and in our sorrows,<br>days of toil and hours of ease,<br>still he calls, in cares and pleasures :<br>'Christian, love me more than these.' |
| 5 Jesus calls us ! By your mercies,<br>Saviour, may we hear your call,<br>give our hearts to your obedience,<br>serve and love you best of all. |   |

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

## **Blessing**

May God bless the world in which you move, your homes and your friends and your families.

May God bless the eyes with which you see and your hearts to receive.

May God bless the way you use your hands with which you work.

May God nurture and nourish you now and forever more. Amen