

**Bulletin for Sunday 1 May 2022**

Good morning friends, on the third Sunday of Easter.

Let's pause as we prepare to worship... and then praise God as we sing an Easter hymn, in fact the one from which the title of our hymn book comes:

Hymn:            Good Christians all, rejoice and sing            (R&S 238)

Prayer: Risen, living, loving Christ,  
          we thank you for this Spring morning,  
          full of colour and scent and birdsong...  
          Be present with us in all we do today,  
          gently teaching and healing,  
          remaking and reshaping us  
          until we better reflect you, our saviour and pattern.  
          We ask your blessing on everything we attempt,  
          and on everything we give in your service,  
          today and every day.     Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Readings:     Acts 9: 1-6     and     John 21: 1-19

Reflection:    Many products in the modern world - from televisions to clothes - are designed to be thrown away when they are damaged or broken. We are just beginning to learn (or, perhaps, to re-learn) how wrong this is, in a finite world where God has given us abundance, but not a license to waste good things.

The disciples had been hurt - broken, even - by the events of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion. They went out fishing, on the lake where they had spent so much time with him, because they were unsure of themselves and had no idea what to do next. They couldn't even seem to catch fish... But as dawn broke the next morning there was smoke curling up from the beach, a wonderful smell of cooking, and a familiar figure waiting for them. Jesus, quiet, confident and generous, with a small charcoal fire and some very welcome breakfast, turned their world around. He wasn't critical of their past behaviour. Peter was gently reminded - by the charcoal smoke and by the three-fold repetition of Jesus' questions - of his denials on the night of Jesus' arrest. But this reminder wasn't followed by rebuke. Rather, Jesus' intention was to mend the past and to heal these damaged friends of his. Failures were understood and forgiven; and Jesus actually entrusted Peter with a new responsibility, to care for his church.

None of us are perfect. We are all broken, damaged and scarred by life and by our by own actions. But God doesn't discard us or reject us; rather we are offered healing and repair, fresh opportunities

and even new responsibilities. Failures find forgiveness, and we all learn that everyone can be part of God's kingdom. We are all used, and all needed, for God's purposes. Amen.

Hymn: Great God, your love has called us here (R&S 339)

Prayers: Great and compassionate God,  
we bring to you the concerns on our hearts.  
We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine,  
for those hiding in basements or trenches,  
for the wounded, the bereaved, the terrified...  
We remember too those in others places of suffering  
from which the media has turned away...  
and we pray especially for the work  
of peacemakers and healers everywhere.  
We hold up to you our own communities,  
especially those in need, or ill, or anxious...  
In Jesus 'name we ask all our prayers,  
including the unspoken prayers of our hearts. Amen

Hymn: God of grace and God of glory (R&S 344)

Blessing: We know we're not perfect, but works in progress...  
May we be open to God's work of transformation in our lives...  
and may the blessing of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with us and with all those we love,  
this week, and always. Amen

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There will be a ' Sunday at Six 'service on Zoom at 6pm on Sunday - all welcome.

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