

## Traditional Home service Sunday 1st May

### OPENING PRAYER

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; 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.  
Amen

### PRAYER OF PENITENCE

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden, to ask for his forgiveness and peace:

*O King enthroned on high, filling the earth with your glory:  
holy is your name, Lord God almighty.  
In our sinfulness we cry to you  
to take our guilt away, and to cleanse our lips to speak your word, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

### PRAISE

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:

Let us sing to God with thankful hearts.  
Open our lips, Lord:  
and we shall praise your name.

HYMN 1 (*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!*)

READINGS - Acts 9.1-6 [7-20]  
Revelation 5.11-14  
John 21.1-19

### TALK

### CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Spend some time praying for our nation, our community and our families.*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

HYMN 2 (*Amazing grace*)

### CONCLUSION

The Lord bless you and watch over you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.  
Amen.

## HYMNS TO USE

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall  
rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore  
thee,  
casting down their golden crowns  
around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down  
before thee,  
which wert and art and evermore shalt  
be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the  
darkness hide thee,  
though the eye of sinful man thy glory  
may not see,  
only thou art holy; there is none  
beside thee,  
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in  
earth, and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

1 Amazing grace (how sweet the  
sound)  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to  
fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and  
snares  
I have already come:  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus  
far,  
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

5 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall  
fail,  
and mortal life shall cease:  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
a life of joy and peace.

6 The earth shall soon dissolve like  
snow,  
the sun forbear to shine;  
but God, who called me here below,  
will be forever mine.

Sermon - Adrian Morton  
John 21:1-19 "Come and have breakfast"

Are you a rower or a jumper?

Companies spend thousands of pounds on courses that try and tell us what sort of person we are.

We can have psychological tests, Myers-Briggs and numerous others that are designed to show us the kind of people we are.

And if we know what kind of people we are then we will also know how to get on with people who are different from us.

Our reading this morning reveals that there are at least 2 kinds of people in God's church.

Rowers or jumpers.

Let's look at our reading in more detail.

Peter had spent the last 3 years of his life with Jesus.

He had seen numerous miracles.

He had seen a storm calmed.

He had tried the walking on water thing.

He had seen Jesus crucified.

He had denied Jesus 3 times.

He had seen Jesus raised to life.

I'm sure his brain would have been muddled. He would have been in a state of utter confusion.

The recent events hadn't been what he had imagined.

Life was not turning out as he'd thought.

Yes he had seen Jesus risen again but I'm sure that at this point he couldn't work it all out.

Now in this state of confusion Peter went and did what he loved to do.

He went fishing.

v3 - *"I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you."* Because often when we are confused, when life is full of uncertainties we need to go out and do what we love to do.

Go and walk the dog, go for a bike ride. Go for a swim, a round of golf, go shopping.

Whatever it is that you love to do go and do it.

And as we go we need to ask Jesus to come with us and connect with us.

Peter just went out and did what he loved to do.

So it then says that, *"they went out and got into the boat, and caught nothing."* How annoying would that have been?

We would have blamed God for that. Why couldn't I even catch some fish? Why did I lose 8 golf balls and shoot my worst ever score. Today of all days.

v4 - *Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.*

They were only 100 yards off shore. It wasn't that far really.

They didn't see Jesus because they weren't looking for Him.

Read v5-6...

v7 - *Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water.*

You see Peter was a jumper. He acted first then thought about it later. And there will be some people like that in our church.

Let's just go and do it.

Let's just build an extension.

Let's organize a huge event.

Let's do this, let's just get on and do that.

What's the problem?

And the church needs people to do that. People like that are visionary's. We need people to be enthusiastic and bring ideas.

v8 - *The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.*

The other disciples were rowers.  
We'll just bring the boat in, nice and steady.  
Let's not lose sight of the catch we've had.  
Hard graft brings the results.

And there will be people in our church who  
are like that.  
When they hear of another whizz bang idea  
they say..  
"Let's just hold up there."  
"We need think about that."  
That needs careful planning, finance, the  
right people etc

And the church needs both kinds of people.  
Jumpers and Rowers...

Its interesting that Jesus allowed them to  
catch nothing. All night!

It wasn't until he said cast your net on the  
right side did they catch a huge amount of  
fish.

Maybe Jesus was reminding them that the  
fruit of their lives are tied up with Him.  
He was linking abundance and fruitfulness  
with Himself.

That's what happens when I'm around.

v9-10 - *When they landed, they saw a fire of  
burning coals there with fish on it, and some  
bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of  
the fish you have just caught."*

Then comes a very strange verse...

v11 - *So Simon Peter climbed back into the  
boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full  
of large fish, 153, but even with so many the  
net was not torn.*

Why does it mention that there were 153  
fish!

And who counted them?

Did you know that 153 is the triangular  
number of 17?...1+2+3 etc

It just means there was a lot!

Maybe its emphasising that with Jesus  
comes abundance...

Then Jesus said to them "Come and have  
breakfast."

I think when we are confused, when life is full  
of uncertainties Jesus just says to us, "Come  
and have breakfast."  
Let's just sit and talk.

Often we mistakenly think God wants to put  
a downer on us.

That he's just waiting to catch us doing  
something wrong.

So he can tell us off about it.

Whereas the truth is, he sees us as his  
friends.

And he says to us, "Let's just sit and talk."

That's how he is.

No thrills, we don't need extravagant, skillful  
language.

We haven't got to develop a formal prayer  
voice.

He knows all our needs.

He knows what's on our hearts.

We need to go and do what we love and talk  
things over.

"Come and have breakfast."

In other words...

"Abide in me and I'll abide in you."

Finally, this reading involving Peter teaches  
us something else.

It teaches that Failure is never final, for those  
in Christ.

Peter had denied Jesus 3 times.

It had completely devastated Peter.

Yet, now Jesus restores Him.

Failure is never final with God.

You always get another chance.

Whilst many of us try our hardest not to fail,  
we always will.

It's OK to fail.

God will restore us.

Someone once said "Failure is a temporary  
detour not a dead end street."

For Peter and for us, failure isn't the end.

So are you a rower or a jumper?

Are you someone who likes to act first and  
think about it later.

Or are you someone who is careful and  
thinks it through first.

It doesn't matter in one sense.

Both are necessary in the Kingdom of God.

Amen.