

**Christ Church, Ipswich**  
**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022**  
**Worship for the Third Sunday of Easter**  
**with Holy Communion**

Hello. I hope all is well. This Sunday, we have an opportunity to celebrate Holy Communion together. If you'd like to participate, may I encourage you to prepare some bread and wine (or something as similar as possible) ready for this part of our worship. This morning, we remain within the season of Easter and our Bible readings today are Psalm 30 and John 21:1-19, where Jesus has breakfast on the beach with some of his disciples and offers Peter a fresh start. Let us worship God together:

**Call to worship**

You have turned our sadness into joy.

**We worship you, O God.**

You have restored us to life.

**We worship you, O God.**

You have tuned our mourning into dancing.

**We worship you, O God.**

**A gathering prayer**

Creator God, you made us in your image,  
 part of your wonderfully diverse creation,  
 fragile and yet fantastic in your eyes.

Be present with us today,  
 and in all we think and say and do.

Meet us and remake us,  
 shape our hearts and minds

that the pattern of our lives  
 may better reflect your life. **Amen.**

**R&S 234      Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord**

*Alleluia, alleluia,  
 give thanks to the risen Lord,  
 Alleluia, alleluia,  
 give praise to his name.*

1 Jesus is Lord of all the earth,  
 he is the King of creation.

2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth,  
 Jesus has died and has risen.

3 We have been crucified with Christ,  
 now we shall live forever.

4 Come let us praise the living God,  
 joyfully sing to our Saviour.

Donald Fishel (1950-)

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**A prayer of adoration**

Creator God, loving Saviour, living Spirit,  
 we celebrate your generosity  
 in receiving all that we would give you.  
 We rejoice in your generosity  
 as you pour out your blessing on all you have made.  
 We commit ourselves to reflecting your generosity in our lives,  
 by giving the best of all we have and are wherever there is need. **Amen.**

**A prayer of confession**

Lord, you know everything.  
 You know when we have tried and failed.  
 You know when we have let ourselves and others down.  
 You know when we have criticised too soon,  
 and understood too late.  
 You know, and you forgive – again and again and again.  
 And so, we bring our hearts to you  
 to be cleansed, renewed and strengthened. **Amen.**

**A prayer of praise and thanksgiving**

God of all that is, maker of things,  
 shaper of stars and mountains, hearts and lives,  
 we thank you for the wonder of your created world.  
 We give you thanks for the promise of life... for what might be... for potential...  
 for our freedom to act for your goodness in any situation.  
 We give you thanks for the possibility of change.

God of all that is, Spirit of Life,  
 we thank you for the miracle of growth,  
 for the beauty of the natural world and for delight in learning.  
 We give you thanks for being with us on our journey.  
 Thank you for your patience, encouragement and faithfulness.

God of all that is,  
 we thank you that you walked the world with us  
 and showed us what humanity could be.  
 We thank you for showing us a love we can begin to understand,  
 although its depth and breadth and height stretches beyond our grasp.

God of all that is, we praise you, O living Lord,  
 that when the nets of our lives are empty,  
 you fill them with the abundance of your love;  
 when we are afraid and fall down,  
 you hold out your hand of forgiveness;  
 and when we are tempted to give up,  
 you call us afresh and give us strength for our journey.  
 God of all that is, we thank you, we praise you  
 and we offer our whole selves to you in worship. **Amen.**

**R&S 243 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain**

1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain  
 wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;  
 Love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
 Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

2 In the grave they laid him, Love whom we had slain,  
 thinking that he never would awake again,  
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:  
 Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
 he that for the three days in the grave had lain,  
 quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:  
 Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
 then your touch can call us back to life again,  
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
 Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

J. M. C. Crum (1872-1958) altd.\*

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### Old Testament Reading

### Psalm 30

<sup>1</sup> I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up,  
 and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

<sup>2</sup> O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,  
 and you have healed me.

<sup>3</sup> O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,  
 restored me to life from among those gone down  
 to the Pit.

<sup>4</sup> Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones,  
 and give thanks to his holy name.

<sup>5</sup> For his anger is but for a moment;  
 his favour is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night,  
 but joy comes with the morning.

<sup>6</sup> As for me, I said in my prosperity,  
 'I shall never be moved.'

<sup>7</sup> By your favour, O LORD,  
 you had established me as a strong mountain;  
 you hid your face;  
 I was dismayed.

<sup>8</sup> To you, O LORD, I cried,  
 and to the LORD I made supplication:

<sup>9</sup> 'What profit is there in my death,  
 if I go down to the Pit?  
 Will the dust praise you?

Will it tell of your faithfulness?

<sup>10</sup> Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!  
 O LORD, be my helper!

<sup>11</sup> You have turned my mourning into dancing;  
 you have taken off my sackcloth  
 and clothed me with joy,

<sup>12</sup> so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.  
 O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you for ever.

### Gospel Reading

### John 21:1-19

#### *Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples*

**21** 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 lake. <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 and 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.

### *Jesus and Peter*

<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.'

### **Reflection**

In this week's Gospel Reading from John, we hear that following a night of fishing, the disciples meet the risen Jesus on the seashore and eat breakfast with him. They don't recognise him at first and it's only after the miraculous haul of fish that they catch on. This leads to a moment of healing and renewal for Peter, who had denied Jesus before the crucifixion.

John tells us that after seeing the empty tomb, Peter and the beloved disciple 'returned to their homes' (John 20:10). Offered peace and forgiveness by the risen Jesus and commissioned to share his risen life with the world (20:21-23, 17:18), they again return home to their fishing. This does not necessarily mean that Peter is running away from his calling. As Presbyterian Minister Revd Austin Crenshaw Shelley suggests 'what if Peter's instinct to go fishing is not an abandonment of Jesus' call but a desperate attempt to re-enact the scene in which Jesus first called him?' In Mark, the earliest Gospel writing, it had been while they were fishing, that the first summons had been given and received: "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." And immediately, they left their nets and followed him' (Mark 1:17-18). Certainly, we see that they are taking time to recognise who Jesus is and to understand their experience of God. Perhaps they wisely go to a place where they've encountered him before. Of course, it seems that the risen Jesus is encountered in different places and in different ways as he continues to point them towards God. In Jerusalem, he showed them his hands and his side. Now he meets them back in Galilee, which is also where this Gospel writer has told us they first 'believed in him' (2:1-11). Remembering their past, not just the 'glory days' but also the brokenness and moments of frailty, must become part of their new way of living. Here back in Galilee, the familiar Jesus they previously followed is now a stranger on the shore. But by following his instructions, they find life-giving food and they experience once again the one who is the source of living water (John 4:7-15; 7:37-38).

First the beloved disciple and then the others recognise that the crucified Jesus is the stranger inviting them to breakfast. We note that they are afraid to ask, 'Who are you?' Perhaps they fear the answer being 'Jesus whom you abandoned and denied.' But this is a moving story isn't it(?) where they know who he is, where they accept the breakfast he was cooking for them and where they are permitted to contribute what they had just caught. Here, they begin to understand his forgiveness and accept his renewed call, 'Follow me.' When we read about the charcoal fire, we're drawn to recall the charcoal fire at which Peter denied three times that he knew Jesus (John 18:18) and, although it is extremely uncomfortable for Peter, Jesus must ask three times, 'Do you love me?', before appointing him to his particular ministry. Peter is still seeking to be first, ridiculously and respectably dressing himself to jump into the sea. So, the first of Jesus' three questions is, 'Do you love me more than these?' Perhaps growing in wisdom, Peter simply responds, 'You know that I love you.' This is such a powerful story about forgiveness and fresh starts, isn't it?

I'm sure all of us here have heard of Timpson's. Well, I'd like to tell you something I read the other day about John Timpson, the person who owns this shoe repair chain. He and his wife have fostered some 90 children, and amazingly, his business has recruited 270 former prisoners as employees. I hear that in a BBC

Radio 4 Lent talk last year, *Faith in 'Lost Causes'*, he spoke about the difference between passive optimism, thinking things might get better, and active hope, that is, making them better. Understanding the insecurities that make people behave badly and having faith in their potential and hope for their future is, John Timpson said, transformative. He spoke of trust, support, and love. And this way of being with others, especially with those who have failed and who know their flaws seems particularly Christlike to me. Certainly, in this 'breakfast on the beach' scene in today's reading, we find a Jesus who understands Peter and the disciples' fears and failures and still graciously offers them hospitality once more, and then trusts his 'little children', the disciples he loves, with his ministry of supporting his flock. As we encounter God's grace and generosity in our lives despite our weaknesses and mistakes, we too are then called and commissioned to show trust, support and love to others, to believe and live with an active hope that seeks to make the world a better place through the way we live and love and care. Let us be certain of the God who is with us and within us, of the potential that our lives have, that one another's lives have, that those we meet have and seek to live as beacons of hope and light in a broken, hurting creation, offering life and transforming love to those we meet, and indeed to the earth itself.

### **A Prayer** (written by Steven Shakespeare)

God of the new fire,  
and feasting at daybreak:  
come to us  
in the dullness of routine  
and the pain of betrayal;  
call to us  
in the way of the cross  
and the joy of resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. Amen.

### ***A moment for reflection***

#### **Our prayers of intercession**

In this week of local elections, we pray for those standing as candidates and for those who will vote.  
May truth be tended and integrity fed  
**and the way of Christ be followed.**

We pray for the people of France for their re-elected president and the forthcoming National Assembly elections, and indeed for all those across the world who are elected to power.  
May truth be tended and integrity fed  
**and the way of Christ be followed.**

We pray for those entrusted with the administration of justice and implementation of policies that affect the lives of millions. We pray for those whose abuse of power leads to the oppression and even deaths of those who speak out.  
May truth be tended and integrity fed  
**and the way of Christ be followed. Amen.**

We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine. For those hiding in basements, for those living in trenches, for those traumatised by all they have seen, heard and endured. May they encounter your risen presence in the ruins of their lives and in the rubble of their cities.

**Amen.**

We pray for people who feel forgotten as the attention of the world's media moves elsewhere: in Afghanistan, in Syria, in The Yemen, and all places of war and hunger. May they encounter your risen presence in the ruins of their lives and in the rubble of their cities.

**Amen.**

And we pray for fishermen today, those whose nets are emptied by regulations, or climate change, and all who face danger at sea. We pray for our stewardship of the rivers and oceans of the world, that they may be protected from plastic, from all pollution; and for all creatures in the oceans and seas.

Lord Jesus may we catch on to your teaching, follow your way  
**and love one another and all creation.**

We pray for farmers and those who work the land, for all whose livelihoods are threatened, for compassion in farming practices, and for thoughtful planting.

Lord Jesus may we catch on to your teaching, follow your way  
**and love one another and all creation.**

And we pray for one another, for those we worship alongside, for those on our hearts, and for those we know are suffering.

Lord Jesus may we catch on to your teaching, follow your way  
**and love one another and all creation. Amen**

### **R&S 339 Great God, your love has called us here**

1 Great God, your love has called us here  
 as we, by love, for love were made.  
 Your living likeness still we bear,  
 though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.  
 We come, with all our heart and mind  
 your call to hear, your love to find.

2 We come with self-inflicted pains  
 of broken trust and chosen wrong,  
 half-free, half-bound by inner chains,  
 by social forces swept along,  
 by powers and systems close confined  
 yet seeking hope for humankind.

3 Great God, in Christ you call our name  
 and then receive us as your own  
 not through some merit, right or claim  
 but by your gracious love alone.  
 We strain to glimpse your mercy-seat  
 and find you kneeling at our feet.

4 Then take the towel, and break the bread,  
 and humble us, and call us friends.  
 Suffer and serve till all are fed,  
 and show how grandly love intends  
 to work till all creation sings,  
 to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

5 Great God, in Christ you set us free  
 your life to live, your joy to share.  
 Give us your Spirit's liberty  
 to turn from guilt and dull despair  
 and offer all that faith can do  
 while love is making all things new.

Brian Wren (1936- )  
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### ***Our children and young people will return from Café Church and join us for Holy Communion***

#### **Holy Communion**

#### **Gospel Words**

Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life.  
 Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,  
 and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.      John 6:35

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking;  
 if you hear my voice and open the door,  
 I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.      Revelation 3:20

God proves his love for us in  
 that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.      Romans 5:8

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,  
 and I will give you rest.  
 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;  
 for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
 and you will find rest for your souls.  
 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.      Matthew 11:28-30

### Invitation to the Table

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may,  
 not because you are strong, but because you are weak.  
 Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come,  
 but because you need mercy and help.  
 Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more.  
 Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you.  
 Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

We pray together:

**Almighty God,  
 to whom all hearts are open,  
 all desires known,  
 and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
 cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
 by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
 that we may perfectly love you,  
 and worthily magnify your holy name;  
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### The Institution

The apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord's Supper:  
 For I received from the Lord  
 what I also handed on to you,  
 that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed  
 took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks,  
 he broke it and said,  
 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'  
 In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying,  
 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.  
 Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'  
 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,  
 you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11.23–26

### Thanksgiving

Loving God,  
 we praise and thank you  
 for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ.

We thank you for his life and ministry,  
 announcing the good news of your kingdom  
 and demonstrating its power  
 in the lifting of the downtrodden,  
 and the healing of the sick,  
 and the loving of the loveless.  
 We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross  
 for the redemption of the world,  
 and for your raising him to life again,  
 as a foretaste of the glory we shall share.

We give you thanks for this bread and wine,  
 symbols of our world  
 and signs of your transforming love.  
 Send your Holy Spirit, we pray,  
 that we may be renewed  
 into the likeness of Jesus Christ  
 and formed into his Body.  
 This we pray in his name and for his sake. Amen.

### **The Breaking of Bread**

Jesus said, 'This is my body which is for you;  
do this in memory of me'.

#### *Sharing the Bread*

Take this in remembrance that Christ died for you  
and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

### **The Lifting of the Cup**

In the same way,  
he took the cup after supper, and said:  
'This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this in memory of me.' 1 Corinthians 11:25

#### *Sharing the Wine*

Drink this and remember that Christ's blood was shed for you and be thankful.

### **Words of Acclamation and Prayer**

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate.  
Your resurrection we confess.  
Your final coming we await.  
Glory be to you, O Christ.

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

**Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen**

### **Prayers for those in need**

Gathered here around this table as God's people sat in the presence of our loving God, we remember before God all those within our church family, and those close to us, who are in need. We keep those who have lost loved ones recently in our prayers. We are very sad to hear this week that Mona Pinkney has died. We thank and praise God for Mona. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. And we pray for Moira, her sister Esther and all the family at this time. God of comfort, draw close to them with your loving presence. We pray for those who are facing difficulties with their health. We think especially of Pat Smith who is sadly back in hospital. We pray also for Jane Lane as she faces mobility problems due to her knee. We pray for those among us who are receiving medical treatment and care at the moment. We pray also for your rich blessing upon all our dear church friends in residential care and all those unable to join us here at this time.

*We bring other friends and loved ones before God in a moment of quiet.*

God of love, hear all these our prayers, in the name of Jesus, amen.



**A prayer of thanks and dedication for all our giving to support our church, FIND and other charities, including The Leprosy Mission, Christian Aid and the Appeal to support the people of Ukraine.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **R&S 522 From heaven you came, helpless babe**

1 From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
entered our world, your glory veiled;  
not to be served, but to serve,  
and give your life that we might live

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
he calls us now to follow him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to the Servant King.*

2 There in the garden of tears,  
my heavy load he chose to bear;  
his heart with sorrow was torn,  
'Yet not my will but yours', he said.

3 Come see his hands and his feet,  
the scars that speak of sacrifice,  
hands that flung stars into space  
to cruel nails surrendered.

4 So let us learn how to serve,  
and in our lives enthrone him;  
each other's needs to prefer,  
for it is Christ we're serving.

Graham Kendrick (1950- )  
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### **A sending out prayer**

Send us out, Lord,  
not perfect creations but always work in progress.  
Keep before us the vision of heaven on earth.  
Show us the way of life that is the pattern of Christ.  
Fill our hearts with the hope and promise  
of your ongoing work of transformation in our lives.  
now and every day. **Amen**

### **The Blessing**

And may the blessing of God Almighty,  
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,  
be upon us and those we love, this day and always. **Amen.**

### **The Grace**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen.**