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WEEKLY LETTER –1 MAY 2022

John 21.1-19

By seeking forgiveness you are more able to
be renewed, and so hear the Risen Christ

We are back at the Sea of Tiberias. For those of you who have been to the Holy land, or seen documentaries about Israel, doubtless you will have experienced the 'wow factor'. The land Jesus walked through is extraordinarily beautiful.

So if you have a feel of the Holy land, perhaps you can imagine the risen Christ standing on the sandy beach watching his friends fish. If you like, picture the big 'cheesy' smile on Jesus' face as he is so excited to see his disciples again!

It's just before dawn, and only a few days after Jesus was crucified. It is clear that none of the disciples expected Jesus to have risen from the grave, for they have already resigned themselves to going back to the old familiar ways of trying to earn a living. They also seem to be behaving in such a way that the last few years was like a dream; or were they thinking, did we just imagine we were with him? Or were some saying to themselves it was all in the mind. It seems that their time with Jesus ultimately meant very little.

Doubt, feeling disillusioned or uncertain is also part of our lives, and so often when we are doubting we like the disciples return to our old ways, and yes with the same predictable results! Nothing really has any meaning and hope seems to fade away.

You will have noticed how Jesus speaks to his disciples, as he uses a term which he has never used before, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" Perhaps Jesus is feeling rather sad for his disciples as they seem rather forlorn and lost.

Once again Jesus points the disciples in the right direction, and their world suddenly changes!

Peter's reaction shows how much he missed being with Jesus, and how much he had gained from being with his source of inspiration. But, Peter won't have forgotten 'Good Friday' where he completely ditches Jesus by saying he never knew him. Logically, Peter would have tried to blend into the background, or quietly disappear, feeling shamefaced and guilty. Yet Peter, because of all that Jesus really meant to him, instinctively knows he is forgiven, loved, and cherished. I hope this is the same for you?

On this holy day, may you know how much God desires you to have a relationship with you, so that you, like Peter, can continue to receive further guidance from the risen Christ.

Stephen

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom, at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Dr Robert Pope.
We will celebrate Communion. Bible Reading: John 21.1-19**

Cycle of Prayer in the Swansea Region – we will pray for Christ Well

Unity and Diversity

Some of you may know that the Unity and Diversity Clothes Store not only supplies clothes to the Asylum Seekers and Refugee Community, but also all sorts of household items.
At the moment we are particularly short of kitchen ware – pots, pans and kitchen utensils. If you do have any such items you no longer use or need, and would like them to go to a good home, we would be very pleased to receive them. They could be brought to Church.

Alert to your call (Lectionary Readings: Acts 9.1-6: (7-20): Psalm 30: Revelation 5.11-14: John 21.1-9)

O God of challenge and transformation,
you call us to follow in Christ's way.
By your Spirit, make us alert to the call
that comes through rushing wind or still small voice.
When we have lost the path and need to be stopped in our tracks,
shock us back into the way of Christ. When we need feeding like lost sheep,
may we know the good shepherd who comes to us.

You are the God of creation, the one worthy to receive power and wealth,
wisdom and might.

Yet you call even us to service – humble, frail and broken as we are.
May we hear your call to us to be proclaimers of good news for all,
in word and deed.

We pray that all may hear of Christ who offers newness of life,
new beginnings and transformation of our old ways,
that ultimately all may come to worship you in your Kingdom.

(John Bradbury – URC Prayer Handbook 2022)

