

# Reflections for 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent

### Bringing Together

Our New Testament reading this week speaks of God in Christ *reconciling* all things to himself. That passage from Colossians, and the gospel reading, which is the opening of John's gospel, can help us to grasp something of the wonder, the breadth and depth of what God has done and is doing in Christ.

To 'reconcile' means to bring back together, to integrate, to bring harmony and wholeness – healing, and peace. The Hebrew word 'shalom', that we usually translate as 'peace', means so much more than just that. It points to this much richer vision of the wholeness that can come through God's reconciling work.

In the cross of Christ the wholeness and perfection in love that is God is broken and torn apart, so that everything in creation that is broken and torn apart can be brought back together in God, and so can be healed and made complete.

Surely it is clear to all of us that our world, and our lives, need that gift of healing that comes through reconciliation. And that means coming back to the right relationship with ourselves, with one another, with God's creation, and, at the heart of it all, reconciliation with God. And that gift is available to us, if we will open our hearts and lives to receive it.

That is the good news for us today, as we again approach the journey that will take us through Lent and Holy Week to our celebration of Easter. We are promised that through the brokenness of Jesus on the cross, we may know in our hearts and lives that reconciling, that healing, that making whole, that is God's gift for us all – and so we may be ready to play our part in making that reconciliation real, in the life of our world.

Revd John Waller

Father God, you call us to bear witness  
that you are in Christ reconciling all things to yourself:  
help us to live the good news of your love,  
so that others may be drawn to you,  
in the power of the Spirit and in the name of Jesus.  
Amen.

Bible readings: Proverbs 88. 1, 22-31; Colossians 1. 15-20; John 1. 1-14

Story: 'The Good Shepherd' (based on Luke 15. 1-7)