

THE HAVEN CHURCH.  
WEEKLY WORSHIP SHEET. SUNDAY MAY 10<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Psalm 19.v14

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. Amen.

Proverbs 3 v5-6.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.”

PRAYER.

Father God,

There are many times in life when we feel lost, not knowing how to move forward. We feel in a fog, in a whirl of indecision and lacking in insight. Help us to put our trust in you and be patient as we wait for you to show us the way we should go. Help us to remember that you have a plan for each one of us, and that even in the darkest night you are with us, for with you there is no darkness. We pray that out of all the darkness of uncertainty, especially in the present days, that you will grant us a new vision, a new destiny, that will banish our fears, and lighten our paths to a new era where you reign supreme and illuminate our way to follow Jesus.

In His Holy name we pray.

Amen.

Song 2065 – The splendour of the King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAtsDQ3z-9o>

Song 621 – You are beautiful beyond description

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59twi0KikiU>

Confession./Absolution

Father God,

You are the one who leads us  
from darkness into light,  
from captivity into freedom,  
from anxiety into peace,  
from despair into joy.

Yet we long to break free,  
choosing independence,  
convinced of our own wisdom,  
forgetting your love and grace.

Forgive us,  
draw close to us,  
embrace us once again  
in your loving arms,  
and enable us to follow you  
in worship and grateful service  
each day of our lives

Amen.

## READING. JOHN 21v1-22

### Jesus and the Miraculous Catch of Fish

**21** Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: <sup>2</sup> Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. <sup>3</sup> "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

<sup>5</sup> He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

<sup>6</sup> He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. <sup>9</sup> When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

### Jesus Reinstates Peter

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

<sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

<sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

<sup>20</sup> Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") <sup>21</sup> When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"

<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me."

### **Sermon.**

(Provided by Rev Ingrid Munroe)

This was Jesus's third appearance to his disciples after his being raised from death. The disciples had seen his first appearances in Jerusalem. With each passing day afterwards they still had no sense of direction as to what to do next. Jerusalem was not a safe place for the disciples, or any followers who were still accused of stealing Jesus's body, and fabricating rumours of his resurrection.

The disciples knew why they were following Jesus, but at this point didn't seem to have any idea what to do with all they'd learned. They were a bit like a boat without a rudder to steer them.

They needed to eat and I suspect without earning power funds could well have been low. As an experienced fisherman, Peter decided to go back to fishing, and others decided to join him. We may wonder if Peter remembered the message that the angels gave to Mary at the tomb according to Matthews gospel, that he would meet them at Galilee? (Matt28v7)

#### At Galilee (Sea of Tiberius)

They set out to do some night fishing. They catch nothing, so their spirits were low and maybe their stomachs gnawing a bit?

Then something happens. A complete stranger is seen at daybreak walking on the beach. He calls to them and tells them to put their nets on the other side of the boat!

Can he see something they can't? Perhaps because of the authority in his voice, or because they feel they've got nothing to lose, they obey him.

Suddenly the nets are so full they can't be hauled in!

The disciple who Jesus loved, usually credited as John, calls out "It is the Lord!".

Now Peter knows for sure he jumps over the side into the water to get to Jesus, leaving the others to drag in the boat and the overfull net.

Jesus has breakfast ready knowing perhaps how hungry they are, and He tells them to bring over some of the fish they've caught.

After eating Jesus takes Simon away to one side and asks him 3 times if he loves him. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, Simon Peter is a bit exasperated as for the final time he affirms his love. Jesus then tells him that one day when he's older someone will bind him and take him where he does not wish to go. Here it is thought that Jesus predicts the sort of death that awaits Peter.

The three questions Jesus asks Peter are designed to forgive and restore Peter, who had denied knowing him 3 times prior to Jesus's crucifixion. Each denial is effectively cancelled out. Such is the forgiveness given to Simon Peter who after all Jesus says ... will be the rock on which I will build my church, and against which the gates of Hades will not prevail' (Matt16v18)

In this appearance Jesus not only binds his disciples together again by having breakfast with them, but restores Peter in discipleship. He does this in the very place where he first called Peter, but reinforcing their purpose as disciples, so to build their testimonies, which will later be used to proclaim the Kingdom.

Song 322 Lead us Heavenly Father lead us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JAve-XMoMY>

### Reflections

1. Have you felt the anxiety that uncertainty, and lack of direction can bring?. Does this make you as apprehensive do you think as these disciples felt about their future?
2. Have you ever tried to reappraise your future direction in life?
3. How are these questions affecting you in our present lockdown situation. Can these things change us so we're never the same again?
- 4 How can we regain our sense of confidence and journey into the future today
5. People may say as they look back on today that it closed our churches. The devil may want to keep throwing this at us, but what do you say??!!
6. Were the empty nets a reminder from God that we should not try to recreate the past? For sure the disciples could do nothing in their own strength? What can this teach us?
7. Does being sinful, and our lack of spiritual strength put God off from using us as his disciples

I have to report that his transforming power draws us all into being worthy disciples.  
Allelulia!!!!

Song: I speak Jesus, by Here be Lions.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpGYImM\\_VeM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpGYImM_VeM)

### Intercessions

(Provided by Helen Skinner)

Isaiah 57 v15 says of our eternal and holy God "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite."

Father, we pray for ourselves, that we would have spiritual open eyes to see You more clearly. As we draw closer to You, we view Your holiness and Your righteousness and we begin to recognise all that we lack spiritually. So we come knowing our need and ask that You would revive us in our spirits and hearts, so that we are ready to perform the role you have given us as priests and bring to You once again, the needs of our world.

### Isaiah 42 v5-7

"This is what God the Lord says – He who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness."

Father, we thank You that You have called us to be Your people today and we pray for those in our fellowship who need that special revelation, that You have taken hold of their hand and are walking with them at this time. We pray for Martin and for Your complete restoration from this virus. For others who are in isolation awaiting treatment, or operations, or who are vulnerable for other reasons, Father may You relieve their minds from any sense of captivity or anxiety and shine the light of your love into any dark places.

We bring to You, Lord, those who are working hard in the care sector and all those services who supply them. Give them Your energy and strength to keep going and Your compassion as they sit with people at the end of their lives, supporting the dying and the bereaved. Would You also give opportunities for those who are spiritually blind, to know the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We pray for those places around the world where there is no healthcare and where governments aren't held to account for their actions. Father, we can't imagine how these communities are coping at this time. Father we know You are a God of love and compassion and we ask that You would protect the poor and vulnerable. We look to You, Father, to provide them with shelter and food and to deliver them from the rule of self-serving regimes. We also pray for places where they face other issues alongside the virus, such as East Africa where crops have been decimated by locusts and West Africa, where Boko Haram continue to plan attacks on Christians and minority groups. Sovereign Lord, bring Your hope to the hopeless and alleviate their suffering. May the plans of Satan be thwarted as You act to protect the righteous.

For governments around the world, we ask for Your wisdom in how they deal with this crisis. Help them in the decisions they make in how to lift lockdown, how to maintain people's safety, how to revive people's businesses, their livelihoods and the economy. We pray they would have the humility to want to work with people of other nations to find solutions to the problems we all share; to find solutions to the virus, to slavery, to reverse the effects of climate change.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

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Song 1702 - Amazing Grace, (My chains are gone)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZCt9EF02yg>

Blessing. <https://youtu.be/PUtl3mNj5U>