**Home Service Sheet For 14th April 2024**

**Call to Worship:**                  **Psalm 4:1-3**

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
    You have given me relief when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

O men, how long shall my honour be turned into shame?
    How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? *Selah*
But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself;
    the Lord hears when I call to him.

**Prayer**

Gracious God, we come before You today in the full and certain knowledge that our sins can be forgiven and we can be made fully clean because You sent Your Son into this world to die and rise again for us. Lord, You call us to Yourself and adopt us into Your family as sons and daughters, co-heirs with Your only begotten Son. You hear us when we cry to You and You will wipe away our tears and heal us of all our ills in the world to come. Lord, we praise You today for You are worthy to receive all praise, glory, blessing and honour! Amen.

**Hymn                                     It is well with my soul**by ***Horatio G Spafford***

<https://youtu.be/bOag79MdXBg?si=9mqcHJxTajInWxxg>

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,

When sorrows like sea billows roll;

Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,

“It is well, it is well with my soul.”

**It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.**

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,

Let this blest assurance control,

That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,

And has shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin– oh, the bliss of this glorious thought:

My sin– not in part, but the whole

Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,

The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,

The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,

“Even so,” it is well with my soul.

**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 that trespass against us. And 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.

**Bible Reading                                 John 20:30-21:14**

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together.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.

Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any fish?” They answered him, “No.” He said to them, “Cast the net on 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 of the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

**Reflection**

Everyone who writes a book has a reason for doing so. Perhaps they wish to share their memories with a wider number of people, or they may want to advance people’s knowledge of astrophysics or the railway coaches of the LMS between the years of 1925 and 1939. Others may simply want to make money out of their ability to tell a good story. Whatever the purpose of writing may be, it is what urges and inspires the author to commit their thoughts to writing. We find the apostle John telling us why he wrote the Gospel that bears his name in our reading today.

This is what John says, “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:30-31) In other words, these are the signs that Jesus is the Son of God and promised Messiah. In fact, John also tells us that this is only a small fraction of Jesus’ words and deeds. In the following chapter he writes, “Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.” (John 21:25)

John’s intention in writing the Gospel account is those who read it may believe. We are to believe that Jesus is the Christ, Messiah or anointed One. We are to believe that He is the Son of God, which is proved by His rising to life again from death. The consequence of believing that Jesus is who He said He was, is life, or eternal life. This is a literal matter of life and death. The account of Jesus and some of His disciples that we find in our reading gives us some really helpful signs, or pointers, to who Jesus is and to the nature of His resurrection. Signs are not necessarily all that important in themselves, but rather are important because they point us towards something else which is important.

Now that Jesus had revealed the fact that He had risen from the dead to the disciples and reminded them of their commission to share the Gospel, you might think that they would be getting ready for all that they would be doing shortly once the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them. However, instead we find 7 of them going off to fish! Seemingly Peter was the one with the bright idea, and yet after fishing all night they had caught nothing at all. Interestingly, this is not the first time that Peter, James and John had had a disappointing time of fishing. In fact, the previous time that Jesus directed them to a large catch he had also called all 3 to follow Him as His disciples. Jesus said this to them, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” (Luke 5:10). It seems like they had forgotten their original calling.

Jesus stood on the shore and spoke to them, yet they failed to recognise it was the Lord. On catching a great number of fish, following the stranger’s instructions, John realised that it must be Jesus. Our Lord’s actions pointed towards His identity because no-one else would seemingly be able to direct them to a miraculously large catch just like that. Peter then jumps in and swims to shore. He acts now that he has seen and understood the sign. In a similar way, those who see the signs pointing towards who Jesus is in the Gospel of John need to act upon their understanding. When people see the signs pointing to Jesus being the Saviour of the world they need to respond with faith that the Holy Spirit enables them to have so that they may be saved.

In verse 9, the disciples find Jesus already with a lit fire on the beach, ready to share bread and fish with them. Again, this should remind us of a previous incident involving Jesus, bread and fish. On that occasion the bread and fish were miraculously multiplied by Jesus to feed over 5000 people. This time it just had to feed 8 people, but we should notice that Jesus already had some fish before the boat came to shore. We don’t know where these fish and the bread came from. Perhaps Jesus simply brought them with Him? What is important, though, is the fact that Jesus does and says things that remind the disciples of their calling and purpose. As we read the Gospel stories we too should be reminded of our calling to follow Christ and make disciples. Amen!

**Prayer**

Heavenly Father, like the disciples returning to the shore we come to You today. Lord, save us from ourselves when we continue to do the same things over and over again, and yet we expect different results. Gracious God, save us from being too busy and doing too much that we miss You and fail to follow Your will and Your ways for us. Lord, save us from doing too little in this life too. We say that we love You, and yet so often we neglect Your sheep. Loving God, save us from ourselves. Help us to hear Your Word and respond when we read You saying to us, "Follow Me." Make us to be ever more attentive to Your Word, which is a light to our feet and a lamp to our path. This we ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, amen.

**Benediction**

Almighty God, may we all now go as Your chosen witnesses to testify that Christ has been raised from the dead and that we are raised with Him unto eternal life. May we not look for Him among the dead but be glad and rejoice in His salvation this day and forevermore, amen.