



## ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH PRAYERS AND REFLECTION BASED ON

John 21:1-14

April 22nd 2026

### 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 his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. <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 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.

### OPENING PRAYER

Lord, when I take time to contemplate in your presence, I can see when the familiar becomes extraordinary. Just as the disciples returned to their nets, pulling in their extraordinary catch, may I be reminded that even in my very ordinary tasks, I also encounter the work of Christ. Help me to remember that I'm never far from your voice calling me to go up to the next level.

In the stillness of this moment, may I release the burdens of my heart and trust your guidance. As the disciples cast their nets at your command, may I have the courage to surrender my worries and embrace your grace.

Thank you for your unwavering love, which nourishes my spirit empowering my heart. May I be open to your vision and ready to say 'yes' when you call on me. I ask for your blessing on my journey through this week, trusting that with you my life will bear much fruit. Amen.

### **THANKS AND PRAISE PRAYER POINTS**

- I am thankful for Jesus' presence after his resurrection – our relationship is strengthened as I recommit my life to serve Jesus
- I am grateful for the lesson to be learned from the miraculous catch of fish – God demonstrates an abundance of generosity which meets my needs
- I thank you Lord, for the chance of a new beginning from forgiveness of my failures.
  
- praise and honour for you Jesus the command to cast their nets offering encouragement for the ordinary things to become extraordinary events.
- Praise to Christ for showing compassion for hard and faithful workers by preparing their breakfast showing love and care for their nourishment
- praise for you Lord for your resurrection – reinforcing our hope and faith in you.

### **PRAYER POINTS FOR CONFESSION**

- I confess Lord that I have allowed myself to continue to struggle with doubt and returning to my old ways of rebellion.
- I confess my moments of hesitation leading to inaction and ears that don't hear.
- I confess to just wanting to go my own way, following my own understanding rather than following the instructions from the risen Jesus Christ.

### **WORDS OF GRACE**

Lord, I have placed the worst of my thoughts and actions into your hands of love, mercy and grace. You have promised to cleanse me when I confess my sins. I do now so confess and rest peacefully in the cleansing palm of your hand. Thanks be to God amen.

### **REFLECTION:**

It isn't hard to see connections between what John reveals to us and our own time. Both encompass doubt, redemption, and God's purpose in our mundane activities. John's reading allows us to witness the disciples returning to fishing after the death and resurrection of Jesus. As we know, after a life altering event occurs in our lives we soon return our 'safe space,' to the place where we are familiar with the rhythm of life and those around us. The behaviour of the disciples oughtn't surprise us.

As they fish all night without success, their struggle mirrors the frustrations and disappointments many of us face today. We often find ourselves working hard, yet feeling unfulfilled or encountering roadblocks that leave us questioning our purpose. The early morning light brings a transformative moment when Jesus offers them a solution to their problem – to cast their nets on the other side of the boat, it doesn't seem much at first. This simple command clearly shows the necessity of listening to the quiet voice of the Spirit guiding us to look at and experience life from a different perspective.

We can't miss the message that comes from the miraculous catch that God offers when our efforts has the capacity to yield great results. In a world where we frequently measure success by tangible outcomes, John's story asks us to remember that faith and obedience are integral to experiencing true fulfillment. The moment of realisation when John recognised Jesus speaks to the importance of discernment and awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Imagine the impact of Jesus preparing their breakfast! That action alone tells us about how important it is to serve our community in a way that builds relationships. In an age marked by isolation and individualism, this image serves as a call to cultivate the connections we have already with community groups, hall users, St Ninian's social groups and activities, and each other, nourishing both body and spirit through fellowship. It emphasises our journeys of faith are meant to be shared, and that Jesus meets us in our daily lives, yearning for a deeper relationship around the communion table with him and each other.

From our reading we know that all is never lost completely – we know that restoration is available to us. After their initial abandonment of Jesus, the disciples experience his grace and forgiveness as Jesus reaffirms their calling. This is particularly touching in a time when may struggle with guilt, failure, and the longing for second chances. The appearance of Jesus not only restores hope, it also informs us that our past doesn't determine our future.

So, John offers us an opportunity to deeply reflect on our lives, encourages us to continue to look toward Christ for guidance, embrace our community, and

recognise the grace of Christ is open to us, prompting us to approach our journey with renewed faith and purpose.

## **PRAYER OF INTECESSION**

God of patience, compassion, and love, I faithfully come to you for those who are looking for guidance and direction in the same way as the disciples on the shore who were fed and nourished by the resurrected Christ Jesus. May they hear your voice guiding them through uncertainty and fill their nets with hope and purpose.

I pray for those who are feeling lost in their endeavours, that they may experience your abundant grace and support. Lord, bring us together in community and encourage us to nourish one another.

In your name I pray amen.

I love the images in this video clip of people coming together – making new friends in simple ways.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wi\\_Pc1VZ2jk&list=RDwi\\_Pc1VZ2jk&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wi_Pc1VZ2jk&list=RDwi_Pc1VZ2jk&start_radio=1)

