

## Thursday Connect group | May 8, 2025

### Welcome and gathering

**Let's get to know each other.**

*Tell us a little bit about yourself and how things are going with you.*

### Opening prayer

Creator God, be with us as we gather to hear your word and make it alive in our heart and our lives. Guide us as we actively listen to each other and share our own thoughts and questions. We ask this in the name of Jesus who became Christ the King. **Amen.**

### Building a patchwork prayer quilt together

*We are creating this prayer using the prayer lines you contributed. We will use this prayer from week to week in this Connect group.*

*To date, this is our prayer. Email [eabeecham@gmail.com](mailto:eabeecham@gmail.com) when you feel moved to add a line:*

Teach us, God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, to pay attention to each other as you do for us when we speak to you. Teach us, God, to listen to one another, to share with each other, to pray together, to hear your word and to grow in faith as a community.

May we feel your love, support, and guidance in every pause, every laugh, and every truth spoken. **Amen.**

### Gospel reading

#### John 21:1-19

<sup>1</sup> 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 some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. <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 and 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.

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” <sup>16</sup> A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” <sup>19</sup> (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

**The Gospel of Christ.**

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

**Discussion of Scripture Passage**

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| 1. After Jesus has risen, he goes looking for his disciples and finds them where he first found them: fishing on the Sea of Galilee.      | <i>Why do you think the disciples went back there?</i>   |
| 2. Imagine yourself after the dramatic events of Easter.  | <i>Where would Jesus have to go looking for you after the excitement of Easter? Where do you keep going back to time and time again?</i> |
| 3. There is a repetition in the passage of Jesus asking Peter and commanding Peter.   | <i>Why does Jesus ask Peter if he loves them three times? Why does he tell Peter to take care of his sheep three times?</i>              |
| 4. Jesus is commanding Peter to tend to his flock.  | <i>Do you think faith is tied to action?</i>   |
| 5. Rev. Ali said that she always likes to imagine herself in this story, sitting around a fire on the beach sharing breakfast with Jesus. | <i>Can you imagine yourself in the scene? What questions would you have for Jesus? What questions would he be asking you.</i>            |
| 6. Jesus and the disciples feast on bread and fish cooked on a charcoal fire.   | <i>Why do you think Jesus focused so much on feeding people? How can we respond to this example that he's set for us?</i>                |

## Closing prayers

Gracious God, give us the bravery of St George to stand up for the truth and the glory of God that we have seen in the face of Jesus Christ. Give us the strength to overcome in our lives and in the world, all that is contrary to your rule of justice and love. Help us to be good news to the suffering, proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to those who will not see; let the oppressed go free, and proclaim the good news of God's favour and Jubilee.

**Amen.**

God of radiant light,  
Your love illumines our hopes before we know them,  
And our needs before we ask.  
Kindle your flame within us that in our prayers and service,  
We may know your transforming presence at work in the world around us. **Amen.**

**We look forward to connecting with you again next Thursday, May 15, 2025.**