

Lectionary readings: Isaiah 6: 1-8; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11; Luke 5: 1-11

For reflection and prayer

- **Isaiah 6:** Isaiah had a vision of God in the Temple - a deeply spiritual experience which is difficult to put into words. Isaiah tried as best he could to describe what he 'saw' and 'heard'. But Isaiah was in no doubt about the holiness, the otherness of God, his own unworthiness and feelings of inadequacy and God's call to him to go and be an instrument of change. We might like to reflect this week on a spiritual experience we have had and how we responded to it. Let's also reflect on how we can be instruments of change in the society we live in and so bring in the Kingdom of God here on earth.
- **Psalm 138:** *'I give you thanks, O Blessed One, with my whole heart I was humbled when I came to see that You dwell in me, in the Holy Temple of all souls; my gratitude knows no bounds. For You are the Holy One,, the Breath of our breath. On the day that I called, You answered meAll the leaders of the earth shall one day praise You, when Your Word awakens in every heart; and they shall proclaim the new dawn of Light and Love Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life; You are a very Presence as I face my fears and doubts; Your strength upholds me You do not forsake those who call upon You. Your steadfast love and truth endure for ever.'* (Psalms for Praying)
- **1 Corinthians 15:** Paul talks here about the grace of God - the 'amazing grace' as John Newton described it in his well-known hymn. I wonder if we focus on this

amazing grace of God? Or do we still think of God as a punishing God? Paul knew from his own experience of God's grace and generosity, for Paul had set out to destroy the church. But God in His grace caught up with him and called him to serve Him. There is no one beyond the grace of God. This is extraordinarily good news which we need to share with a world that specialises in bad news. We are all unworthy of God's love, but God sees each one of us through the eyes of love and forgiveness. He gives us energy and power through His Spirit within us to see others through His eyes, thus bringing about the transformation that is God's will. This is a huge challenge for each one of us. How have we experienced the grace of God? And how are we allowing that to change us?

- **Luke 5:** When Peter witnessed the miracle of the huge catch of fish, he realised he was in the Presence of God. *'Master, leave. I'm a sinner and can't handle this holiness. Leave me to myself.'* (v9 The Message) God saw the great potential in Peter, as He does in each one of us, and called Peter to serve Him. I wonder how often we have said to God, 'Leave me alone. I'm happy as I am.' Isaiah, Peter and Paul each had an amazing encounter with the God of grace. Perhaps we wish we had had a vision like theirs of God's holiness. But each day God is revealing Himself to those who have eyes to see and ears to hear. God meets us in the ordinary, everyday experiences of life, not necessarily in 'religious' places. Let's look for God and expect to meet God as we go about our lives and not miss God's transforming Presence this week so that our lives might be changed for ever.