

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 9th May, 2021, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Old Testament: Isaiah 55: 1-11

Psalm: Psalm 98

New Testament: Acts 10: 44-48

Gospel: John 15: 9-17

Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Revd. Alastair Wheeler

Today's events happen in Caesarea Maritima, a bustling, multinational, centre of news, information, ideas. Cornelius was 'the Centurion of the Italian Cohort', in charge of about 450 soldiers. A well paid professional senior officer and a powerful person in this garrison port.

The vision that Cornelius had of the animals let down in a sail was declaring that what God had done in entering our history and world in person in Jesus was for all nations.

Peter had to have the courage to break Jewish Law just to be in the presence of unclean Gentiles. He took a huge personal risk by talking to a senior officer of the occupying army.

Peter's very life was on the line, his way of understanding God, understanding this Jesus that he had led the other disciples at that other Caesarea in affirming as Messiah, Christ, that faith was being taken apart and rebuilt. It happens sometimes to most of us that our faith gets rebuilt by God, by new understanding and insight.

In the dramatic experience of the coming down of the Spirit and the water of baptism, God demonstrated that his life and love overcome barriers and boundaries, real or imaginary, physical or human.

Collect for Sixth Sunday of Easter

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.



Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am, Sunday Worship; Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm