

## 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: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021, Third Sunday before Advent

**Old Testament:**                **Jonah 3. 1-5, 10**  
**Psalm:**                            **Psalm 62. 5-12**  
**New Testament:**            **Hebrews 9. 24-28**  
**Gospel:**                            **Mark 1: 14-20**

### Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Revd. Fiona Beale

Jesus does not offer a map, an itinerary, or a destination, only an invitation. This is not the type of journey you can prepare for. This is the inner journey, a journey into the deepest part of our being, the place where God resides. It's not about planning and organising, making lists, or packing supplies for the journey. It's not that easy. If anything, this journey is about leaving things behind.

This is hard to do for most of us. More often than not our spiritual growth involves some kind of letting go. We never get anywhere new, when at times we carry our old baggage. We accept Jesus' invitation to follow, not by packing up, but rather, by letting go.

So, what do we need to let go of and leave behind so that we might follow him? What are the nets that entangle us? What are the little boats that contain our life? Who are the fathers from whom we seek identity, value, or approval?

When we let go, of unwanted desires or habits or ways that aren't Godly, everything is transformed. That's why Jesus could tell the disciples to be, they would still be fishermen. But now they would fish for people. They would become transformed fishermen.

### Collect for the Third Sunday before Advent.

Almighty Father,  
whose will is to restore all things  
in your beloved Son, the King of all:  
govern the hearts and minds of those in  
authority, and bring the families of the  
nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages  
of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Worship to enjoy at home

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

**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.

 **0800 804 8044**  
**DailyHOPE**  
A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers