

## 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: 23rd January 2022, Third Sunday of Epiphany**

**Old Testament: Nehemiah 8: 1-3,5-6,8-10**

**Psalm: Psalm 19**

**New Testament: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a**

**Gospel: Luke 4: 14-21**

### Reflection on the Gospel reading, written by Sarah Keen

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus starts his ministry with a visit to his local synagogue in Nazareth. Taking a passage of Isaiah as his guide he stuns his audience by implying that he is the Messiah they have been waiting for. Not just that, in using a text that refers back to the liberation from oppression inherent in a Jubilee year, Jesus sets out the basis for his future ministry. The clear suggestion is that his ministry will not only be spiritual but also one of hands-on social justice. Needless to say, this causes quite a stir.

How might we best respond to the example that Jesus sets us? Unlike the worshippers in Nazareth, we need to be willing to step outside our comfort zone, welcoming new people into our midst and demonstrating the love and warmth that come with being a Christian community. Further, we need to treat each year as a Jubilee year, looking for opportunities to release people in our community from the burden of debt or worry or loneliness. That's how we best embrace the message of Jesus and the joy it can bring to ourselves and others.

### collect for Third Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God,  
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles  
the wonder of your saving presence:  
renew your people with your heavenly  
grace, and in all our weakness  
sustain us by your mighty power;  
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 Morning Worship, Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm