

## Reflection Tuesday Advent Week 3 - 2020

Zephaniah speak of being lowly which is generally seen in English as a diminishing word meaning less than others or of no consequence. Yet, Jesus refers to himself as being *gentle and lowly in heart*, when he asks us to take up his yoke. The bible offers an in depth and rich understanding of words like lowly and humility. Jesus is proud of these attributes and wants us to emulate them. A wonderful feature of Jesus is the way he used his antagonists as a way to teach. We may have messed up in our lives and carry the burdens of past failures. They weigh us down at each step on the road. Today, Jesus reminds us that tax collectors and prostitutes, given the opportunity, **are** willing to change the way they live and become exemplary witnesses of Good News, and so can we. Rather than focus on the past, Jesus looks to the future. A future full of hope and possibility once we let Jesus into our lives and become lowly and humble like him. A really good example of lowliness and humility can be found in the current tier system. Parts of Hertfordshire (the south) are to be moved into tier 3 because the rates of infection there have risen too sharply. Perhaps, in North Herts, people have recognised that, by keeping to the rules, they can help each other. We face the threat of the virus together as family believing no one is better than anyone else. Being considerate, we will remain in tier 2; may our lowliness and humility help us keep it this way.

Promoting the theme of **JOY**

- **Joy gathers all suffering into its arms and dares despair to do its worst.**
- **Joy courses through our veins like fire, bracing us to sing out – regardless of circumstances.**
- **Joy is Scrooge laughing like a schoolboy on Christmas morning – not because he is warm and well-fed, but because he has realised he can CHANGE.** He is awake to the power of Love which releases him to rejoice WITH his fellow human beings.
- While Hope and Peace can comfort and instruct us in our waiting, **Joy reminds us what we are waiting FOR.**

Entering a pet shop, a little girl asks to buy a rabbit. The owner smiles and says, *“Come this way! We have lots of different rabbits to choose from depending on what you’re looking for.”* He leads the little girl to a huge collection of bunnies of all different sizes and colours. Pointing to a tiny bunny in the corner, he says, *“This one is a mini-Rex, they are calm and quiet and a good choice for someone who’s calm by nature. This Polish one is cuddly and affectionate! While this one is a Californian! He’s a little shy but with a gentle handler he will soon warm up.”*

“So,” he says to the little girl, *“What do you think? Which one of these would you like?”* The little girl gives a shrug and says, *“I don’t think my snake really cares”.*