

Thoughts on the Daily Word

5th Week of Year. Monday 9th February. Readings: 1 Kings 8:1-7,9-13; Psalm: 131; Gospel: Mark 6:53-56.

The temple is alien to much of the Christian story, despite its centrality in the ministry of Jesus. This would seem to be because of the prophecy of its destruction by Jesus and the division between the Jewish people and Gentile Christianity. It has a beautiful symbolism that can easily be lost though. This time last year we were reflecting of the creation story in Genesis and that story is at the root of the temple itself. At its heart was the sacred space where God dwelt, often symbolised by the cloud, or shekinah, which accompanied the Israelites through the desert. Around this almost empty space was the curtain, itself representing the creation as the distance between God and humanity. According to the Gospel this was rent at the death of Jesus. This meant not disaster but the end of the division between God and his People. A healing of the brokenness between them. Everything that Jesus did was a part of that healing, hence the beautiful stories of the healing ministry of Jesus and his disciples today.