

Proper 1, 3 before Lent, Year C

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

I saw a good programme. Muslims, alcohol
Why do we criticise Muslims for
We should be doing it too.

We need courage.

Isaiah: send me. Awe. Worship. Inadequacy. Send me. I am pardoned. To talk to people who don't listen. Vision brings knowledge that his people will be all but destroyed.
Curious mixture of awe and intimacy.

1 Corinthians: He appeared even to me.
Remain courageous in face of attacks on our religion.
Act, don't just sit and talk.

No more hiding our light under a bushel – it is not ours to hide.

And let me have no false modesty about this. I help nobody by hiding my light in case it embarrasses others, and I certainly do not help myself. It is, in any case, not my light to hide.

'Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. ... There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.' *Marianne Williamson Return to Love*, p 165

'The incarnation', writes Metropolitan Anthony, 'reveals to us that man is so great that he can unite himself with God without ceasing to be man in the full sense of the word; that he is so vast that he contains the divine presence, that there is at the core of each of us what the Archbishop of Canterbury once called a God-shaped emptiness which nothing can fill which is of the earth or of heaven or of the created, but God alone.'

I say that it is *not* that we have a God-shaped *emptiness* inside — *God is there*. It is rather that we fail to recognize God as such, that we turn our faces from the revelation within. Divine love is already within us from the beginning. Redemption is there for the taking if we will but accept it.

Luke: boat, cast other side, never done that before. Wonderful result. Take risks. Leave me sinner that I am, says (Simon) Peter. But no. Jesus puts faith in him. Faith is repaid a thousandfold.