**Wednesday 29th April**

Matthew 12:18-21

“Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through to victory. In his name the nations will put their hope.”

This passage is a quote from the book of Isaiah that Matthew uses to show how Jesus has fulfilled the scriptures. Jesus has just healed all who came to Him with every kind of ailment, in the power of the Holy Spirit. He is putting things right - he is demonstrating what God’s Kingdom looks like - it is a place of righteousness, peace and joy - it is a place where Jesus reigns, and the sick are healed, where wrongs are righted. It is a place where those who are fragile and broken, bruised by life’s struggle are tended and nurtured and restored again. Jesus didn’t just come to get us to heaven, but to bring heaven to us. That is the Kingdom that we pray for when we pray the Lord’s Prayer. It is the Kingdom that Jesus entrusted into the hands of His followers. It is here that all nations find hope in Jesus.

*Lord, we praise you for who you are! We worship you as the King of kings and Lord of lords! We thank you Jesus that you came, bringing in the Kingdom of God and that one day we will see that work completed! In the meantime we ask that you would help us to be those that co-labour with you to see your Kingdom advancing. We pray for those that feel like ‘bruised reeds’ or ‘smouldering wicks’ today. We pray that they would experience your comfort and help, and your power to restore. And we look forward to the day when all nations put their hope in Jesus. For the praise of His name. Amen*

