**Wednesday 8th April**

2 Chronicles 7: 14

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

This is a very famous verse that many of us will be familiar with. God says these words to Solomon at the dedication of the Temple. This is a glorious moment in the history of the people of God. God literally moves in! The Presence of God is so awesomely powerful that the Priests couldn’t stand to enter. Then God says that if things go wrong in the future – if the people leave His ways and go after other gods and the people experience the consequences of those choices, there is a way back. We call that way back repentance. It requires humility. Humility is nothing to do with grovelling, false modesty or humiliation. Humility is seeing yourself as God sees you and seeing God for who He is. God sees as you as amazing – fearfully and wonderfully made! Worth dying for! But He is God Almighty! He knows all things – we do not. He is perfect – we are not. He is wisdom – we are not. Humility is to acknowledge our total dependence on Him. That’s not always something that comes easily! We have become so sophisticated and have made such extraordinary advances and sometimes that leads to pride and self-sufficiency, rather than a recognition that all good things are a gift from God, and that without Him we can do nothing.

Sometimes we can look around and see others that we think should be humble, or should repent! But this verse says that it is the people of God – those of us called by His name that get to lead the way in this. And what a promise, if we come to our merciful God in humility and repentance!

In Jesus God has provided the ultimate way back! As we walk through this unusual Holy Week, let’s reflect on the gift of Jesus, our restorer and healer, and ask Him to give us a Godly perspective on ourselves and Him.

*Father, we thank you for your great mercy. Thank you that you loved us so much that you did not withhold your only Son, Jesus, from us, but gave Him up for us. Thank you for providing the Way back to you. At this time when the nations are struggling, when our nation is full of sickness and fear, we, your people, called by your name come before you in humility and repentance. We thank you that you always welcome us back when we come to you. We ask you that your glory would fall upon your people, and that as we seek you, you would heal our land. In Jesus name Amen.*

