**Prelude to Prayer:**

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. ~ Peter

**Prayer Focus: John 21:3-8**

*Simon Peter said, “I’m going fishing!”*

*The others said, “We will go with you.” They went out in their boat. But they didn’t catch a thing that night.*

*Early the next morning Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize who he was.* *Jesus shouted, “Friends, have you caught anything?”*

*“No!” they answered.*

*So he told them, “Let your net down on the right side of your boat, and you will catch some fish.”*

*They did, and the net was so full of fish that they could not drag it up into the boat.*

*Jesus' favorite disciple told Peter, “It’s the Lord!” When Simon heard that it was the Lord, he put on the clothes that he had taken off while he was working. Then he jumped into the water. The boat was only about a hundred yards from shore. So the other disciples stayed in the boat and dragged in the net full of fish.*

* Lord, You go before me. You know my ways and habits. You know what I do when I’m frustrated, fearful, and frantic. Thank You for noticing. Thank You for being a witness to my life.
* You know how Peteresque I am. I seek comfort in what’s familiar, even when that’s not ideal. You knew Peter, in his grief and confusion, would go back to the boat. Remind me (gently, please) that my old ways don’t help me catch a thing. Remind me I don’t need to go back to...
* All my blessings come from You.
* I’m in love with how Jesus followed Peter. Thank You for pursuing me with Your goodness and mercy, even when I walk the other way.
* Thank You for calling out “Friend” before I even know it’s You. Thank You for following me this week when...
* I confess I don’t always recognize You, even when You’re right in front of me. Forgive my inability to imagine the length and depth and breadth and length of Your love. My own love is so short and shallow and skinny, I forget Yours reaches to the heavens. You are Always, and With Me. Thank You.
* Help me be honest with You and others about what my own habits are producing. Help me with the humility to admit to the nothing I’m catching on my own. I admit it profits me little when I…
* You give wise direction. Your plans always bear fish.
* Obeying Your design maximizes my return. You bring the best out of me because You put it there and You know my optimal operations. You’re the Engineer. Give me wisdom and courage to drop my net where You tell me.
* Right now I don’t very much want to drop my net into…
* Give me strength and patience, and clear-eyed vision to see what You see as the blessing that will come from that side of the boat.
* Even when I’m sitting in the midst of Your abundance, I can still miss You. My friends have to nudge me and tell me You’re there with Your power and provision. Thank You for Your Church, where I can hang with Your disciples who’ll tell me, “Pssst, that’s Jesus.” Thank You for the people who are doing that this very morning.
* Let their reminders fire an impulse and urgency in me to get to You NOW. Peter didn’t wait for the boat to reach shore. He had to get near You and *immediately*. There was no polite decorum, just a big splash. Help me be a little splashier in getting nearer to You this week.
* Thanks, also, for the others who stayed in the boat and finished the job. They caught Peter’s slack while he was in a moment of growth. Thank You for friends who catch my slack when I’m growing.
* Keep me mindful of the gentleness my friends and family need as they grow. Nudge me when I need to drag in their fish to complete the work.
* We have people in growing pains right now, who are training for nearness to You, trust in You during uncertain times, and deeper faith in Your goodness.
* Please pour out love and protection, and provide direction, according to Your plans, for Marv & Linda around Marv’s health, for Glenda & Loren around Loren’s health, for Lisa Danielson in her Seattle treatments, for Hilary’s dad and Scott’s dad in their cancer treatments, for Deb’s Desiree in her recovery, for Vonda & Steve Hamilton in their COVID state.
* That sounds like a lot. Keep the FACC family mindful of the encouragement our friends need in their growth (which is what struggle offers, if we have Your eyes). Help us wrap around them with support as we cheer them on.
* My character comes from perseverance in suffering, same as Peter’s. Keep me open to growth because that growth of character is the work of hope.
* After all of this, Peter from the boat, Peter of the Big Splash, is the guy who will write, “..the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever.”

In the name of Jesus who calls us into eternal glory, **Amen**.