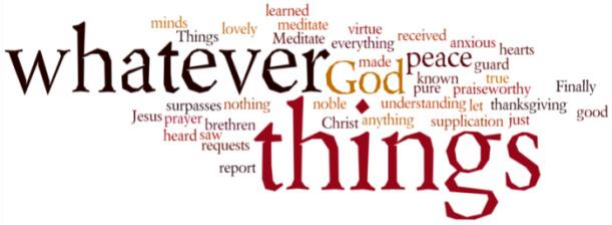

THINK ON THESE THINGS….. (our contributor this morning is Brian Eyles)

Reading: John 3: 1- 8

There was a Jewish leader named Nicodemus, who belonged to the party of the Pharisees. One night he went to Jesus and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher sent by God. No one could perform the miracles you are doing unless God were with him.'

Jesus answered, 'I am telling you the truth: no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again.'.....

'A person is born physically of human parents, but he is born spiritually of the Spirit. Do not be surprised because I tell you that you must all be born again. The wind blows wherever it wishes: you hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. It is like that with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

Reflection:

I used to go wind surfing and I was so familiar with the unpredictability of the wind I used to marvel at how accurately Jesus described what the wind does. Perhaps he often sailed with Peter, his brother, and his friends on the Sea of Galilee. The Gospels tell us how they were once caught in squally conditions.

We don't need to look very far back to remind ourselves how unpredictable our world is. Who could have foreseen that Donald Trump would become President of the USA? No one ever thought of predicting the 9.11 disaster or the IRA bombing of a Brighton hotel. Even if some people do warn us about dangers ahead, the Beirut disaster or a Pandemic breaking out across the world, these tragedies still come unexpectedly.

We live in an uncertain world and Jesus shared in its unpredictability. St. Luke tells us how only one out of ten healed lepers returned to Jesus full of joy, and Jesus was quite surprised. The leper was a Samaritan and Jesus said, 'Why is this foreigner the only one who came back to give thanks to God?' (Luke 17.18)

Jesus' words to Nicodemus about not knowing from where the wind was coming were spiritually important because, as the disciples began to realize, the resurrected Jesus would appear, quite unexpectedly; in a locked room, or on the road to Damascus. They learnt to be prepared, adaptable, hopeful, open minded, and alert.

So in these unpredictable days when we don't know where or when the next Pandemic spike might appear, let us keep faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ, the sometime unseen, but ever present companion in our daily living.

Breath-Prayer for today: Lord Jesus Christ, take away our fear of the unpredictable and equip us to be alert and hopeful in this life and in the life to come.