**30th March 2020**

***Daily Scripture:***

***“******3 He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.***

***4 Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.” (Isaiah 53:3-4)***

***Daily Reflection:***

In about 40 AD a high ranking official from Ethiopia sat in his chariot reading aloud this passage from Isaiah. Philip, one of the apostles, heard him, and asked what he made of it, to which the official answered that he needed some help in understanding it. Who was the prophet referring to? Philip joined him in the chariot, and explained that these words were a prophecy about Jesus, the promised Messiah, who suffered all the pain and grief a human being can encounter, before his glorious resurrection. When he had finished explaining the good news of the gospel, his companion asked to be baptised.

In all our suffering we are strengthened by the knowledge that Jesus, Emmanuel, is here with us in the midst of it all. And when we are baffled, confused or weak in faith God sends us people like Philip to strengthen and support us – if only we are humble enough to acknowledge our need.

Revd Rosemary