

# Sonnet-Prayer

## Sonnet-Prayer by Malcolm Guite for the third year of the Diocesan Vision: Transformed by Christ: **Prophetic**

**The sonnet-prayer below is based upon the following passage from Luke's gospel:**

*When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'*

Luke 4:16-21

### **Sonnet-Prayer**

What if this scripture were fulfilled today  
Not only in our hearing but our deeds?  
What if we walked together on this way  
And the anointing spirit met our needs?  
Imagine if we really brought good news  
And poverty itself could be transformed.  
What if we served the kingdom and refused  
To compromise with this world's shoddy norms?

We would ourselves, like captives, be released,  
Set free ourselves in setting others free,  
And, opening blind eyes, as light increased,  
We'd find we had been blind but now could see.  
What if our eyes were fixed, like theirs on Jesus?  
Why then his words might be fulfilled in us!

Malcolm Guite  
November 2021