

‘Why don’t you come over for a meal?’ An invitation that would have been offered to us when we move into a new area..

Or ‘Lovely to see you – why don’t you come on in?’

Come over, come on in – words of welcome, words of invitation.

This morning we our reading from the Book Revelation rounds off a series of a series of passages that have been included in our lectionary over the last few weeks of this season of Easter. Revelation is one of those books of the Bible that evoke a number of responses. With all its visions of battles in the heavenly places between the forces of good and evil, it s descriptions of judgement, it would seem to have no place in our thinking. With its background in the early persecution of the Church in the first two centuries of the life of the Church, there is running through it a abiding confidence that God, and the people of God will ultimately over the powers of evil. And so it rounds off with these visions of the heavenly Jerusalem that we have heard both last week and this week.

In our reading this week there are a series of invitations, come

¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’
And let everyone who hears say, ‘Come.’
And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Lots of voices saying come. I want to set this within the context of the Service of Baptism. The Pastoral Introduction that comes at the beginning of the service of Baptism begins with these words:

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love.

In the sacrament of Baptism we invite the newly baptised, the parents and god parents to join with us on this journey of faith, this journey that we all undertake, a journey with God and into god..

Embarking on a journey involves setting a direction,