



## Beauty in brokenness

Week 1: Tuesday



### Reading

**Psalm 147.1-7**

How good it is to make music for our God,  
how joyful to honour him with praise.  
The Lord builds up Jerusalem  
and gathers together the outcasts of Israel.  
He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up all their wounds.  
He counts the number of the stars  
and calls them all by their names.  
Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
his wisdom is beyond all telling.  
The Lord lifts up the poor,  
but casts down the wicked to the ground.  
Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;  
make music to our God upon the lyre;

### Reflection

**In a church in Graveney, there is a cross. Not very remarkable, you might think, but this is a cross made from 121 rusty nails.**

Taken from a 14th-century door, the nails were set into Perspex to form a cross. What was apparently broken and useless became something beautiful and meaningful.

In the Bible, brokenness represents both the flaws caused by sin and the wounds from life's trials. Stories of brokenness are found in Adam and Eve, Tamar, Ruth, David and Bathsheba, the Samaritan woman, and the apostles Peter and Paul. All experienced brokenness. Yet, in each case, God brought beauty and restoration.

In Psalm 147, the psalmist praises a God who heals the broken-hearted, binds their wounds, and lifts the humble. God continues to forgive, heal, and restore those who trust in him. In Jesus, we again encounter the God who mends brokenness, forgives the repentant, and offers healing.

### Challenge

When you hear the word 'broken', what comes to mind? Can you bring your thoughts to God and ask how he might make the broken into something beautiful?



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