SCRIPTURE:
On the evening of that day ... the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me; even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:19–22, ESV

Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. John 21:5–6, ESV

MEDITATION:
Jesus has risen indeed!! And that has made all the difference. Over the centuries and millennia, Jesus's resurrection has been our greatest inspiration, our most compelling story, our guiding north star, our strongest reason to forgive, our resolve to find common purpose, our driving motivation to carry on against all odds.

The resurrected Jesus gives purpose to even our routine occupations. Fishing is what these disciples understood at the deepest level. Through long arduous years of practice, their hands and souls could feel the boat's rocking, the net's straining, and the fish's elusiveness. Their hearts recognized how truly miraculous this huge catch was. During my college years, I was a commercial fisherman in Alaska. I knew that several catches like this would pay my semester's tuition. Jesus meets us where we are.

REFLECTION:
In Genesis 1:26, God said, "Let us make humanity in our image, and after our likeness." We often marvel at how God had the insight to present God's essence in the form of a human. Jesus was like us humans—so that we could relate to Jesus as a human. This was the Son of God and the Son of Man in one person. Moreover, in Genesis, we learn another mystery: even back then, God was creating a humanity that was like "us as God": namely, like God the Son who had already existed from the beginning. Jesus sacrificed for us, and so taught us to sacrifice for one another. At its deepest core, a human's willingness to compassionately sacrifice for another human has been the hallmark of humanity's fruitfulness, growth, and triumph.

Why did Jesus come, die, and resurrect at that time in history? Why then, why there, why in that way? We can only speculate. More importantly, in our day-to-day walk, how will this transform us now? How will we pass on this same resurrection peace that God has planted in us? How will we nurture, pray for, and have compassion for our children, grandchildren, relatives, neighbors, and fellow fishers?

PRAYER:
Lord, let us find our strength from your resurrection peace. Give us the forgiveness, resolve, and love to transform our "enemies" into friends, collaborators, and prayer partners. Commit us to praying for those we touch. Transform our swords of division and fear into plowshares of nourishment and hope. Give us the compassion and words to convey how truly amazing this resurrection gospel is. Let us nurture a soul that listens, so we can hear your still small voice amidst the turbulent winds. Inspire us to throw our net on the right side of the boat.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR:
Fred S. Cannon recently became an emeritus professor from The Pennsylvania State University. There he taught and researched environmental engineering. For 27 years, he was the faculty Principal Investigator of Penn State's Sloan program, which has provided scholarships for 200 African American and Latino/a American PhD candidates. Fred greatly appreciates the ASA pursuit of finding harmony between science and the Bible. He is an active member of the ASA Prayer Committee. Fred and his wife Liz have three married children, and six grandchildren, whom they love very dearly.