

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023

By Revd John Marshall

Which Comes First, the Fish or the River, by Malcolm Guite

Since every gift comes down from the all-giver  
How can we choose between the giver's gifts  
Or say which should come first, the fish or river?

He scatters first, and then calls us to gather  
To float upon his love our loving craft,  
And sail our songs upstream, back to the giver.

He gives his gifts when we are met together,  
Not in our splits, our schisms, and our rifts,  
We cannot prize the fish and river.

Divide the two and say 'which would you rather?'  
We drift through time on fragile little rafts  
But time and life alike flow from the giver.

Away up stream, it all flows from the Father.  
The stream is his own Spirit, giving gifts,  
His Son, our brother, joins us in the river.

He is a both-and God, not or, or either.  
He gives full measure; steady, heady droughts.  
The giver must come first, always the giver  
And we receive his gifts: both fish and river.

This was for Michael Ward from the Singing Bowl. Canterbury Press

I find this interesting, because we may be more familiar with which came first the chicken or the egg, but I like the image of a both-and God.  
What do you think?