

All Age Morning Worship 20th June 2021

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Morning Worship with Margaret + Malcolm Rittman

Prelude: Still

Hide me now
Under Your wings
Cover me
Within Your mighty hand

When the oceans rise and thunders roar
I will soar with You above the storm
Father, you are King over the flood
I will be still, know You are God

Rest my soul
In Christ alone
Know His pow'r
In quietness and trust

When the oceans rise and thunders roar
I will soar with You above the storm
Father, You are king over the flood
I will be still, know You are God (repeat)

I will be still, know You are God
I will be still, know You are God

Reuben Morgan, CCLI: 3940963



Gather to worship

O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;
Serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song;

For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

The Lord did not say,
'You shall not be tempest-tossed, you shall not be weary, you shall not be discomforted.'
But he said, 'You shall not be overcome'.

Song: Jesus lover of my soul

Jesus – lover of my so - ul,
Jesus – I will never let you g - o,
You've taken me
From the miry cla - y
You've set my feet upon the rock
'n' now I know

I love you,
I need you,
Though my world may fall,
I'll never let you go;
My Saviour,
my closest friend,
I will worship you until the very end (REPEAT all)

I love you,
I need you,
Though my world may fall,
I'll never let you go;
My Saviour,
my closest friend,
I will worship you until the very end

Daniel Grul, John Ezzy, Steve McPherson, CCLI: 1198817

Saying we are sorry

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:
Forgive us Lord and fill us with your mercy.

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:
Forgive us Lord and fill us with your mercy.

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:
Forgive us Lord and fill us with your mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Everyone, thank God—he's so good! His love continues for ever

All of you set free by God, tell the world!
Tell how he freed you from oppression,
Then rounded you up from all over the place,
from the four winds, from the seven seas.

Everyone, thank God—he's so good! His love continues for ever

Some of you set sail in big ships;
you put to sea to do business in faraway ports.
Out at sea you saw God in action,
saw his breathtaking ways with the ocean:
With a word he called up the wind—
an ocean storm, towering waves!

Everyone, thank God—he's so good! His love continues for ever

Then you called out to God in your desperate condition;
he got you out in the nick of time.
He quieted the wind down to a whisper,
put a muzzle on all the big waves.
And you were so glad when the storm died down,
and he led you safely back to harbour.

Everyone, thank God—he's so good! His love continues for ever

Song: Calm me Lord

Calm me Lord as You calmed the storm,
Still me Lord,
keep me from harm.
Let all the tumult within me cease
Enfold me Lord,
in Your peace

(3x)

The reading is taken from Mark 4:35-41 (from The Message)

Let us prepare ourselves for the word of God

Our hearts and our minds are open

³⁵⁻³⁸ Late that day he said to them, "Let's go across to the other side." They took him in the boat as he was. Other boats came along. A huge storm came up. Waves poured into the boat, threatening to sink it. And Jesus was in the stern, head on a pillow, sleeping! They roused him, saying, "Teacher, is it nothing to you that we're going down?"

³⁹⁻⁴⁰ Awake now, he told the wind to pipe down and said to the sea, "Quiet! Settle down!" The wind ran out of breath; the sea became smooth as glass. Jesus reprimanded the disciples: "Why are you such cowards? Don't you have any faith at all?"

⁴¹ They were in absolute awe, staggered. "Who is this, anyway?" they asked. "Wind and sea at his beck and call!"

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The reading is taken from 2 Corinthians 6:1,2 (from the Message)

Let us prepare ourselves for the word of God

Our hearts and our minds are open

Companions as we are in this work with you, we beg you, please don't squander one bit of this marvelous life God has given us.

God reminds us,

I heard your call in the nick of time;

The day you needed me, I was there to help.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Talk

Stilling the Storm

I wonder how many people noticed that all three of our readings today are about God being there when things got tough. The Psalm reminds us that God is there when the storms of life get too much for us and this is very similar to the story about Jesus stilling the storm isn't it? Even in his letter to the Corinthians, Paul talks about God being there when we feel things are at their worst and we are frightened about what might happen next. Just like the disciples when the storm reached its height and the waves threatened to flood the boat.

Have you ever been on a boat when the seas got rough? - it isn't a pleasant feeling, particularly in a small sailing boat when it is tossing from side to side and you have to hold on tightly to stop yourself being thrown into the sea!

Let's be honest, we all want our lives to be calm and smooth.

Nothing really to worry about, the sun shining, the sea calm and a big smile on our faces. Put on our sun hat and smile at the world.

Life continues and we live each day as it comes. We go out to school, or work, or get on with whatever the day holds. A bit like setting off in a boat for a pleasant sail.

That's what Jesus and his disciples did in our story. They, and some others, set off from land to cross the sea of Galilee to get to their next destination. Jesus was, obviously shattered and he soon fell asleep, leaving his disciples to do what they were good at – or at least, they thought they were – they sailed the boat across the calm waters.

However, it wasn't unusual for storms to suddenly start in these waters and this one was a cracker. Even these experienced fishermen were frightened and they had a genuine fear they were going to drown

It's just like life when we find that things get in the way. We have a disagreement with a family member or friend and to be honest, it spoils the whole day as we think about how wrong they are and how right we are.

We get ill or lose our job, or someone close to us does and we worry, we may even have to change our routines in order to care for them.

We have difficulties at work or school or money is very tight and we're not sure how we are going to buy the stuff we need, or cater to the increasing demands of the children as they grow.

We want to visit our family but Covid restrictions have limited our movement within and between our countries.

Sometimes these events can seem to overwhelm us and we feel out of control. Our everyday lives feel bashed and battered and, like the disciples, we just feel we are about to sink under the pressure and stress.

In the version we read from the Message, Jesus calls his disciples cowards for worrying about the storm, but in most versions he asks them what they are afraid of.

Are they afraid of the storm and the fact it could mean life or death to them?

Or are they afraid of him because he calmed the storm. He'd done a couple of miracles before this one, healed a couple of people and turned water into wine at a wedding, but to command the forces of nature? This was awesome.

They were used to being able to control their own actions in opposing the natural forces of the sea, with Jesus snoozing somewhere nearby. Did you notice the question they asked him as they woke him up? *“Teacher, is it nothing to you that we’re going down?”*

It’s just like us, feeling we can control our lives and keep Jesus safely stored somewhere in our hearts or minds, ready to jump out when we come to church or get involved in another church activity.

... but for Jesus to control the natural forces of the sea in order to keep them safe, the source of the problem, was in a different league altogether.

We too easily put God into a soft box of ineffectuality and safety. We forget his awesome power as creator and Lord of all.

We’ll never understand why he doesn’t always heal or get us out of difficult situations and for those who in countries and cultures where they are persecuted for their faith, that wanting to understand seems to give strength more than weakness.

Like us, the disciples too had to learn to trust God for what God is and gives Not for what we want.

It’s important for us to know and accept who is at the centre of our lives and find that Jesus is there. He is our rock, our stability, our hope for the future.

Having faith in God means believing that he exists, that he is close to us and that he is powerful, no matter what happens. It means asking him for help, trusting that he will answer our prayer even though that might not mean taking the problem away, but being with us and in us as he guides us to safe waters.

We’re now going to hear the song: ***Faithful one*** with these words included in the chorus:

You are my rock in times of trouble, you lift me up when I fall down, all through the storm your love is the anchor – my hope is in you alone.

May that be our prayer today, that our hope really will be in God alone. Amen.

Song: Faithful One, so unchanging

Faithful one, so unchanging
Ageless one, you’re my rock of peace
Lord of all I depend on you
I call out to you, again and again
I call out to you, again and again

You are my rock in times of trouble
you lift me up when I fall down

All through the storm
Your love is, the anchor
My hope is in You alone
(repeat once)

SoF 89, CCLI: 465840

Creed:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers (by Iris)

Let us pray for the world,
for the Church,
and all those in need.
And let us thank God for his goodness.

Dear Jesus,

Sometimes we feel like the disciples in the boat:
Our problems are as loud as a storm.
We are afraid and can't hear you any more.

Send your voice into our hearts:
when we listen to a friend,
when we listen to good music,
when we read a thoughtful book.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

But there are also others who no-one hears.
There are powerless and poor people whom no-one listens to.
There are people who are too weak or too ill to speak for themselves.

Help us to hear their voices, too.
Strengthen them and give them confidence.
Let us support them where we can.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Dear Jesus,

Sometimes we feel like the disciples in the boat:
The night is so dark that we can't see you any more.

Send your light into our souls:
when a loved one smiles at us,
when we admire your creation,
when we observe people helping each other.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

But there are also others who no-one sees.
The beggars on the streets, people in prisons or people who are too old
to leave their homes.
And there are fellow pupils or colleagues whom no-one really cares about.

Help us to notice and see them.
Help us to give them attention and love.
Show us these people, let us visit them.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Dear Jesus,

Sometimes we feel like the disciples in the boat:
We feel only desperation and can't believe in you any more.

Send your love and faithfulness into our lives:
when someone is there for us,
when we find the strength to endure,
when we learn to find our way.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

And sometimes we can't believe in ourselves any more:
Nothing works, everything we touch seems to go awry.

Send us people who believe in us and think we are capable of doing the things we are supposed to do.

Give them the patience to teach us as much as possible.

And when we are able to do it ourselves, let us have the freedom to do it independently.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We bring before you our community,
and the visa procedure for our new minister.
Strengthen him and his family and us in this time of waiting and uncertainty.

In silence we pray for the people on our hearts.

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Song:: Give thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son (repeat)

And now
let the weak say I am strong
Let the poor say I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us
(repeat)

Give thanks

SoF 124, CCLI: 20285

God said, ' Don't be afraid, I am with you. I've called you by name, you're mine.
When you're in rough waters, you will not go down.'

The Peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

The Peace



**In darkness and in light,
in trouble and in joy,
help us, heavenly Father,
to trust your love,
to serve your purpose,
and to praise your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Closing Prayer

**May God's Holy Spirit be in your life
May God's Holy Spirit be in our world
May God's Holy Spirit be love between us**

*[place hand on heart]
[sweep hand out in front]
[hold hands or open them out]*

**And the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be with you and those you love, now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing



Announcements

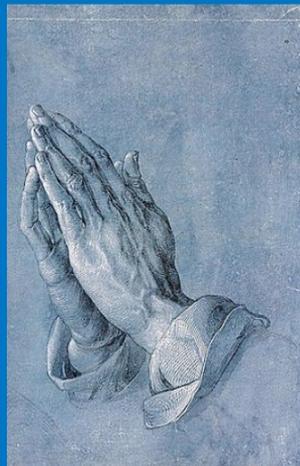
Look forward to our next service

with Revd. Peter Widdess

27th June 2021

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

11:30 hrs, Zoom link see website



Evening Prayer on Wednesdays

Wednesday, 23rd June 2021
9pm (for 20-30min)

(Please use the usual
Sunday service link.)

Postlude