**Sunday August 9th 2020** WORSHIP AT HOME: **Matthew 14.22-33**

Welcome to our act of Worship

A Prayer for the Peoples of Beirut

Merciful God, be with the people of Lebanon.

Comfort all those who are distressed or anxious,

Protect the emergency services,

Restore the injured to health,

And abide with all who mourn,

For the sake of your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*(taken from The Church of England website)*

Call to worship

‘But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint…”*Isaiah 40:31*

A Prayer of Approach

Gracious God, we bring to you this morning  
our fears and our joys, our hopes and our anxieties,  
knowing that you are God, who reaches out to us,  
who welcomes us,  
and who, through Jesus,  
brings us safely aboard the boat of your love.  
So we pray in his name and offer our lives to your glory. **Amen.**

HYMN: Ye servants of God, your master proclaim...

HP278, MP784, RS293, STF340

*(Some of the hymn books widely used in the Wiltshire United Area)*

*Prayers of Praise*

God of creation, the world is yours!  
You have made the earth  
and all that grows and flourishes.  
**We praise you, Alleluia.**

You have made the waters and the seas,  
the lakes and rivers that flow.  
**We praise you, Alleluia.**

You have made air and sky,  
the clouds and the winds that blow.  
**We praise you, Alleluia.**

In chaos and in calm,  
in storm and tranquillity,  
**We praise you, Alleluia.**In risk and in safety,  
in confusion and peace,  
all authority is yours.  
**We praise you, Alleluia.  
Amen.**

*Prayer of Confession*

Lord God,  
I’m sorry for the times I take my eyes off you,  
and seek to do things in my own strength.  
I’m sorry for the times I doubt that  
you can keep me on the straight and narrow.  
I’m sorry for the times I ask you for signs.  
Lord, I pray that you will forgive  
my doubts and hesitations,  
show me your loving presence,  
especially when I most need it,  
and teach me to trust you at all times.  
**Amen.**

HYMN Give to me, Lord, a thankful heart

HP548, MP-, RS497 , STF520

Ministry of the Word of God

Lectionary Bible readings for RCL Proper 14 Year A

1 Kings 19.9-18; Psalm 85.8-13; Romans 10.5-15;

**GOSPEL Matthew 14.22-33**

“Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid,” (14:27)

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

Reflection

Whilst on Chaplaincy duty at the height of the pandemic I would visit Intensive Care, not only wearing full PPE, but clutching a carefully chosen selection of readings, each sealed in a plastic bag. To some patients I simply said Hello, but to those patients who wished, I would gently read the readings. With one sedated patient, a deeply committed Christian, I would stick the readings to the wall by the side of the bed. Unbeknown to me the staff, few who would even define themselves as having a spirituality, would read them to the patient. One was of Jesus stilling the storm and I just added a postscript saying, “God not only stills the storm, but is with us in the storm.” A staff member on my next visit said he liked that image! (A beautiful, wonderful moment: sharing faith amidst the storm of the pandemic!)

A storm is the setting in today’s Gospel. Out on Lake Galilee above the wind and crashing waves the disciples hear a voice: *‘Take courage!  It is I.  Don’t be afraid!’*The setting is immediately following the feeding of the 5000, now that can be read as a picture of Christian vocation, whilst the storm can be viewed as being about the life of faith – or as Bishop Tom Wright puts it, *“The life of half-faith, faith mixed with fear and doubt which is the typical state of so many Christians, as it was with the disciples..”*

*‘Take courage!  It is I.  Don’t be afraid!’*The root meaning of the English word “courage” is the Latin *cor*and the French *coeur* -- “heart,” which may explain English translations that vary between “take heart” and “take courage.” What is Jesus saying to Peter and to his disciples? I wonder if it is that faith means living out of your heart and being prepared to let your heart rule your head, is that what Peter did when he got out of the boat? Someone once said that the word FAITH was actually spelt R I S K. The theological college I attended had the motto, *Quo Vadis et* [*Sequimur‎*](https://www.wordsense.eu/sequimur/) – where you lead I will follow. The journey of faith can be literally Gospel: challenging us to step out from security into the surreal, from safety into the storm! Will we be like the those who stayed in the boat, or like Peter – being prepared to trust in Christ?

We do not face the future unknown or alone for Christ is with us, even in the height of the storm. Let us “take heart” and “take courage”.

Prayer of Response

Lord, grant our faith a heart of calmness.  
Though the storms of this life may rage,  
let us know the quiet centre within.  
When the winds of doubt whisper to our souls,  
hold us fast in your belonging.     
When the waves of fear overwhelm,  
ground us in the unsinkable knowledge of your love.

Lord, grant us a heart of calmness. Safe in your keeping, we tread the tides of life,  
until, in the sea of eternity,  
we arrive safely upon heaven’s shore. **Amen.**

HYMN Will you come and follow me

HP-, MP-, RS558, STF673

Little people may prefer,

SONG: Wide, wide is the ocean.

Our Prayers

We pray for those who find themselves tossed about by all that life throws at them, those who feel out of control and don’t know which way to turn…  
We pray for those who find themselves with an unexpected challenge, those who have much asked of them and feel overwhelmed…  
We pray for those who find themselves overtaken by events, those who feel dejected and at a loss…  
We pray for those who find themselves on the wrong side of popularity, those who feel they have more enemies than friends…  
We pray for those who find themselves searching for what they do not know, those who feel that there must be more to life…  
We pray for confused disciples and perplexed prophets, those who strive to be faithful and serve you, only to be surprised by grace…  
**Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HYMN Will your anchor hold in the storms of life

HP689, MP770, RS598, STF645

Blessing

May the blessing of God the Father be upon us  
as we venture out into the world,  
to live to the glory of God’s name.  
May the blessing of God the Son be upon us  
as we step out in faith,  
to serve Jesus Christ as faithful disciples.  
May the blessing of God the Holy Spirit be upon us  
as we listen to the promptings of God’s Spirit,  
at one with our neighbours, with ourselves,  
and with God.  
Amen.

Rev David Coppard Superintendent @ Wiltshire United Area

Bank Chaplain @ Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton

***Our churches may not be open, but the Church is alive.***

*This is service is offered to any and all, with love and prayers.*

**Matthew 14.22-33**

**Jesus Walks on the Water**

**22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. 25And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. 26But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, ‘It is a ghost!’ And they cried out in fear. 27But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, ‘Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.’**

**28 Peter answered him, ‘Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.’ 29He said, ‘Come.’ So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. 30But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’ 31Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, ‘You of little faith, why did you doubt?’ 32When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’**

**Storytelling today’s Gospel**

*Lay out a blue cloth, a toy boat and play figures.* *Tell the story using the figures.*

It had been a stormy night on the lake  
and the boat was a long, long way from the shore.

Early in the morning Jesus’ friends woke up and looked out.  
They saw someone walking towards them across the water.

They were very frightened. Was it a ghost? No, it was Jesus.

‘Don’t be afraid,’ he said.

Peter tried to walk across the water to Jesus,  
but he was worried about the wind and the waves.

He began to sink. He called out, ‘Save me!’

Jesus reached out and saved Peter.

**For All Ages – through the week**

[*A way into prayer*](javascript:void(0))

Draw a heart and write in it all the things that you feel anxious or worried about. Read Jesus’ words: *‘Take heart. It is I; do not be afraid’*, and pray them over your worries. Write Jesus’ name in the heart with your worries, and when you are ready, let go of trying to be in control of them in your own strength.

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**Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim, *T Laudate Dominum***  
And publish abroad His wonderful Name;  
The Name all victorious of Jesus extol,  
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save,  
And still He is nigh, His presence we have;  
The great congregation His triumph shall sing,  
Ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.

"Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!"  
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son;  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore and give Him His right,  
All glory and power, all wisdom and might;  
All honor and blessing with angels above,  
And thanks never ceasing and infinite love

**Give to me, Lord, a thankful heart *T Gatesgarth***And a discerning mind;  
Give, as I play the Christian’s part,  
The strength to finish what I start  
And act on what I find.  
  
When, in the rush of days, my will  
Is habit bound and slow,  
Help me to keep in vision, still,  
What love and power and peace can fill  
A life that trusts in you.  
  
By your divine and urgent claim,  
And by your human face,  
Kindle our sinking hearts to flame,  
And as you teach the world your name  
Let it become your place.  
  
Jesus, with all your church I long  
To see your kingdom come:  
Show me your way of righting wrong  
And turning sorrow into song  
Until you bring me home.

**Will You Come And Follow Me** ***T Kelvingrove***  
If I But Call Your Name?  
Will You Go Where You Don’t Know  
And Never Be The Same?  
Will You Let My Love Be Shown,  
Will You Let My Name Be Known,  
Will You Let My Life Be Grown  
In You And You In Me?

Will You Leave Yourself Behind  
If I But Call Your Name?  
Will You Care For Cruel And Kind  
And Never Be The Same?  
Will You Risk The Hostile Stare  
Should Your Life Attract Or Scare?  
Will You Let Me Answer Prayer  
In You And You In Me?

Will You Let The Blinded See  
If I But Call Your Name?  
Will You Set The Prisoners Free  
And Never Be The Same?  
Will You Kiss The Leper Clean,  
And Do Such As This Unseen,  
And Admit To What I Mean  
In You And You In Me?

Will You Love The ‘You’ You Hide  
If I But Call Your Name?  
Will You Quell The Fear Inside  
And Never Be The Same?  
Will You Use The Faith You’ve Found  
To Reshape The World Around,  
Through My Sight And Touch And Sound  
In You And You In Me?

Lord, Your Summons Echoes True  
When You But Call My Name.  
Let Me Turn And Follow You  
And Never Be The Same.  
In Your Company I’ll Go  
Where Your Love And Footsteps Show.  
Thus I’ll Move And Live And Grow  
In You And You In Me.

**Wide, wide as the ocean,**  
high as the Heaven above;  
deep, deep as the deepest sea  
is my Saviour’s love.  
I, though so unworthy,  
still am a child of his care,  
for his word teaches me  
that his love reaches me ev'rywhere.

**Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,** ***T Will your anchor hold***when the clouds unfold their wings of strife?  
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,  
will your anchor drift, or firm remain?

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul  
steadfast and sure while the billows roll;  
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,  
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour’s love!*

Will your anchor hold in the straits of fear,  
when the breakers roar and the reef is near?  
While the surges rave, and the wild winds blow,  
shall the angry waves then your bark o’erflow?

Will your anchor hold in the floods of death,  
when the waters cold chill your latest breath?  
On the rising tide you can never fail,  
while your anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

Will your eyes behold through the morning light  
the city of gold and the harbour bright?  
Will you anchor safe by the heavenly shore,  
when life’s storms are past for evermore? [Refrain]

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