

9th August 2020 – Morning Service

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Introduction

The prophet urges us, “The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him” (Habakkuk 1:13). Our Lord showed Elijah and us that to sense his presence and to hear his message we need to be quiet and listen for the “still, small voice” of the Holy Spirit (1 Kings 19:12).

This morning I will lead you in a guided silent worship through prayers, singing in hearts and reading the scripture and message. Remember, our prayers and response to God are not solitary, because when we join together as the people of God, even in silence, we are worshipping in One Body.

Call to Worship

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Welcome in the name of Christ God’s grace, mercy and peace be with you.

Prayers of Adoration & Confession

Lord, we love you.

God, we love you. Thank you for the many kindnesses we have experienced in this time of social distancing: old friends reconnecting, some households learning about togetherness, others learning new quieter rhythms. Creator, creation is so much with us, through sights, sounds, tastes, fragrances; we pause to give thanks for something in nature that gave us joy this week. [PAUSE]

Father, we love you. You have brought people into our lives, we pause to give thanks for an experience of joy or peace with others we had this week. [PAUSE]

Lord, we love You. Still, we sometimes disregard You [PAUSE]

We ask forgiveness for a time this week where we have disturbed or destroyed the peace of another person. We pray for someone who is on our hearts, who we know is in need of joy. [PAUSE]

We pray for a place and a person in the world that is on our hearts that needs your peace. [PAUSE]

God of grace, we love you. You hear both our prayers and our complaints. We love You [PAUSE]

We long for You today. Lord, save us.

Thank you for hearing our prayers and answering them. We love you. Amen

Song – Jesus paid it all

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) I hear the Saviour say
‘Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness, watch and pray
Find in me thine all in all’ | 2) Lord, now indeed I find
Thy power and thine alone
Can change the leper’s spots
And melt the heart of stone |
| Ch) <i>Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow</i> | 3) And when before the throne
I stand in him complete
‘Jesus died my soul to save’
My lips shall still repeat |

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Reading: Matthew 14:22-33 - Jesus walks on the water

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. 'It's a ghost,' they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.' 'Lord, if it's you,' Peter replied, 'tell me to come to you on the water.' 'Come,' he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came towards Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. 'You of little faith,' he said, 'why did you doubt?' And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

Reflection

What kind of God is revealed to you through the person of Jesus in today's passage?

Now, Matthew 14 turns to record the miracles performed by Jesus:

1. Matt 14:13-21 Feeding the 5000
2. Matt 14: 22-33 Walking on the water
3. Matt 14:34-36 Healing the sick

Today's passage, Matthew 14:22-33, records our Lord walking on the water (see also Gospel of Mark & John). It happened immediately after the miracle of the feeding the 5000. Such a familiar recall. What attracts your attention today? Will it be Peter? Or the boat that carried the disciples? What about the wind and the waves? *But, what might God want us to receive from Him today?*

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus and seek God's voice together:

Dear God, Your words speak to us through Matthew 14:22-33. We ask that you open our ears and eyes to see and hear you. Speak, O Lord, your servant is waiting in Jesus' name, Amen.

The Bible contains a long and complex history of the way God's self-revelation of Himself to humankind. From the previous passage [the feeding of the 5000], we know Jesus has authority over us and He is sovereign. Today, through this passage, again we ask ourselves:

What kind of God is revealed to us through the person of Jesus in today's passage? [Pause]

He sent the disciples on a boat journey while he went to the mountain and prayed alone. While the disciples were exhausted, wet and cold on the boat, Lord Jesus walked toward them on the water. When the disciples failed to recognise Him, they thought it was ghost and were overwhelmed with fear, Jesus revealed Himself with His unique presence and offered them comfort. When Peter asked for something extra-ordinary, perhaps to the point that Peter did not deserve such an extra-ordinary opportunity in human eyes: 'walking on the water'. Yet Jesus said YES to Peter!

What kind of God is revealed to you through the person of Jesus in today's passage? [Pause]

When Peter was so 'enjoying' his new experience he has was distracted by the other things in his situation. Peter side-tracked & swayed away from Jesus. Yet, Lord Jesus still stayed close to Peter. As Peter failed to continue walking on the water [he started to sink], Lord Jesus did not blame Peter. When Peter cried, 'Lord, save me!'. Our Lord look into Peter's eyes and said, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?'

What kind of God is revealed to you through the person of Jesus in today's passage? [Pause]

I wonder, in your own life, if you have had ups and downs as the disciples and Peter had in the boat. Do you see God through Jesus journeying along with you, like Jesus and Peter? Can you see God revealing Himself through others? Look at Matthew 14: 33, the disciples in worshipping Jesus, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." Now, spend a few minutes - tell God and worship Him by telling God, 'Truly, you are'. Amen.

Who is your 'Peter (s)'?

Many of us may find ourselves quite close to Peter's temperament: swinging from full of faith to becoming fearful, then filled with faith and becoming fearful again and sink! But, Christians are called to grow to be more like Jesus. We are to fix our eyes and thoughts on Jesus: to imitate and follow Him alone. Not Peter. Now, who is your 'Peter' and your 'followers' (followers of Jesus)? [Pause]

Maybe it is someone from your neighbourhood? In the High Street or a shop? Perhaps in your family or in your church? Who's face(s) or name(s) come into your mind? [Pause]

So, let us take a few minutes to tell God that you will be like Jesus to Peter;

You will act as Jesus to 'your own Peter' – whoever God has brought into your mind. [Pause & pray]

Let us pray:

'Lord, I will be like Jesus to my 'Peter (s)'.

I will go to a quiet place and pray alone regularly for 'my Peter'. While 'my Peter' is exhausted, wet, cold, hungry or thirsty in life, I will be like Lord Jesus and walk towards them on the water by faith.

When 'my Peter' fails to recognise Jesus is in me and thinks it's strange and is overwhelmed with fear, Lord Jesus, please reveal yourself with God's unique present in Spirit and offer them comfort like Jesus did to Peter too.

When my 'Peter' ask for something extra-ordinary, perhaps to the point that I think 'my Peter' does not deserve such an extra-ordinary opportunity. Help me to say, 'Yes'.

Help me be more like Jesus, He said YES to Peter!

If 'my Peter' was so 'enjoying' his/her life and swaying away from Jesus.

When 'my Peter' does not consider the need of you God, help me to stay close to 'my Peter', please. Yet, Lord Jesus stayed close to 'my Peter' still.

As Peter failed to continue walking on the water [and started to sink],

When 'my Peter' fails and struggles to walk their journey and when 'my Peter' cries, 'Lord, save me!'.

Please, Lord Jesus, have mercy and look 'my Peter' into his/her eyes and say, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?'

Help 'my Peter' to worship you, Jesus, saying, 'Truly Jesus is the Son of God' Amen

Song – In moments like these

In moments like these

I sing out a song

I sing out a love song to Jesus

In moments like these

I lift up my hands

I lift up my hands to the Lord.

Singing I love you, Lord,

Singing I love you, Lord,

Singing I love you, Lord,

I love You

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Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to God, who alone makes us dwell in safety:

L: Lord, hear us: **R: Lord, graciously hear us**

Even as there is much to be thankful for, we come together with lament; this virus has caused so much loss of life around the world. So many suffer, so many families grieve, and we don't know when it will end.

L: Lord, hear us: **R: Lord, graciously hear us**

We lament the financial burdens of this pandemic, and that it has fallen heavily on the poorest, with inequalities standing out more sharply than usual.

L: Lord, hear us: **R: Lord, graciously hear us**

We know that racism is one of the roots of injustice. There are those among us who suffer because of racism and there are those among us who haven't thought about racism because it is the privileged air we breathe.

L: Lord, hear us: **R: Lord, graciously hear us**

As we work on solving health problems, we continue to pray for a vaccine for this virus. Give insight to researchers, and co-operation among nations, so that all can benefit from scientific breakthroughs.

L: Lord, hear us: **R: Lord, graciously hear us**

Give wisdom to our politicians making difficult decisions about how and when to modify social distancing. Help them find that fine balance between opening our economy and safeguarding public health.

L: Lord, hear us: **R: Lord, graciously hear us**

Keep us healthy and help us care for each other. As we all make choices about who to see, and how many we should see at a time, help us refrain from judging each other, just as we do not want to be judged by others.

L: Lord, hear us: **R: Lord, graciously hear us**

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. Especially for all who are affected by coronavirus; In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light:

L: Lord, hear us: **R: Lord, graciously hear us**

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray to you. May our Lord Jesus walk with us this week. We trust in you, because you have been with us, showing us the faithful path in good times and bad, and may your will be done on us. 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.**

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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are
yours now and for ever. **Amen.**

StF 51 – Great is thy faithfulness

1) Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with thee
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail
not;
As thou hast been thou for ever wilt be:

2) Summer and winter, and springtime and
harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love:

Ch) *Great is thy faithfulness!*
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed thy hand hath provided
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

3) Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to
guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for
tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Blessing

The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
The LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy
Spirit. As it was in the beginning, and now, and ever shall be. World without End, Amen.