

**Home Worship for Sunday, 20th June 2021**  
**Pastor Andy**

**WELCOME**

Welcome everyone!

When I was a little boy one thing that I was not allowed to do in church was make a noise! But today, to help us understand our Bible story, I NEED everyone to make a noise!

I'd like to begin by practising! DO IT!

When I give you the signal (*demonstrate some sort of signal; pointing or raising arms*), I want you to make a loud noise!

But when I signal you to stop (*show another signal to cue an end*), I want you to be quiet right away.

Let's give it a try...

That was pretty good! But what if you could do that with things in your life ... what if you could do that with the weather? Wouldn't it be amazing if you could just give a signal and change the weather?

Believe it or not, that's exactly what Jesus does in today's Bible reading!

Jesus and His disciples were out on a boat, and a storm picked up.

- The disciples were fishermen, so they knew how to handle a boat and ride out the waves.
- But this was a huge storm, with wind and rain and big waves! They started to get worried. They were so afraid that they didn't know what to do and thought they might drown.
- And do you know where Jesus was when the storm was on? He was asleep! Can you believe that, just snoozing in the bottom of the boat! Well, the disciples woke Him up and asked for help.
- Jesus got up, and told the waves "Peace! Be still!"

All of a sudden, it was completely calm. It didn't gradually die down. It stopped in an instant. All of a sudden it was flat calm!

The disciples had eyes like dinner plates! They asked each other: who could this man possibly be? Even the wind and waves obey Him. All He had to do was just speak to the storm!

This is an amazing story. It does tell us about God's amazing power. But it also says something about our lives.

Do you ever feel worried or scared? You might just be scared of the dark... Remember: Jesus is WITH you! He DOES care for you. He IS in control. You have NOTHING to fear!

I've got a little science experiment to help you remember this...

- Take a look at this cup here. If this liquid (*hold up vinegar*) is you, things that make you anxious or frightened kind of stir up your emotions (*pour in baking soda*) and make you feel like you're "stormy" inside, almost bubbling over!
- But when we pray and put our trust in Jesus (*Pour in oil*), His power can calm our hearts and settle our nervous minds. He brings us lasting peace and stills the worries that threaten us.
- If Jesus can control the weather with just a simple command, we can be confident that He has power over our fears. We can trust Him to help us always!

We continue our worship now in the Name of our ever present and caring God: the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**SONG: *Beneath The Waters* CCLI#6179573**

**Verse 1**

This is my revelation  
 Christ Jesus crucified  
 Salvation through repentance  
 At the cross on which He died

**Verse 2**

Now here my absolution  
 Forgiveness for my sin  
 And I sink beneath the waters  
 That Christ was buried in

**Chorus 1**

I will rise  
 I will rise  
 As Christ was raised to life  
 Now in Him  
 Now in Him I live

**Verse 3**

I stand a new creation  
 Baptised in blood and fire  
 No fear of condemnation  
 By faith I'm justified

**Bridge**

I rise as You are risen  
 Declare Your rule and reign  
 My life confess Your Lordship  
 And glorify Your Name  
 Your word it stands eternal  
 Your kingdom knows no end  
 Your praise goes on forever  
 And on and on again  
 No pow'r can stand against You  
 No curse assault Your throne  
 No one can steal Your glory  
 For it is Yours alone  
 I stand to sing Your praises  
 I stand to testify  
 For I was dead in my sin

**Chorus 2**

But now I rise  
I will rise  
As Christ was raised to life  
Now in Him  
Now in Him I live

### **APOSTLES CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell, the third day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **SONG: Still CCLI#3940963**

#### **Verse 1**

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

#### **Chorus**

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 and know  
You are God

#### **Verse 2**

Find rest my soul  
In Christ alone  
Know His power  
In quietness and trust

### **BIBLE READINGS: Mark 4:35-41**

<sup>35</sup> That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." <sup>36</sup> Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. <sup>37</sup> A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. <sup>38</sup> Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" <sup>39</sup> He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. <sup>40</sup> He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" <sup>41</sup> They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

### **MESSAGE**

Why did the disciples cross the lake? ... You know the answer... To get to the other side!

They probably DIDN'T want to get to the other side.

- The **other side** was the NON Jewish side. Why would they go looking for trouble!
- And the lake is only 10 kilometers across. We know that four of the disciples were fishermen. They would have seen the storm brewing a mile away!
- And another thing: if they knew that Jesus was going to help a man who lived where they buried the dead – He may have told them –that's UNCLEAN territory, why would they go there!

So why DID they cross the lake? ... The Bible says: because JESUS told them to! Jesus obviously wanted to get to the other side!

But why take His disciples? They just seemed to be along for the ride. And what a ride it turned out to be!

- They ended up scared for their lives!
- Firstly from the storm, then even MORE SCARED to be in a boat with someone who could talk to a storm!
- Then, once they got to the other side, they saw Jesus deliver a man filled with demons. As a result the demons went into a herd of 2,000 pigs and they all ran down a cliff and drowned.

Now, before we get too carried away with THEM ... what about US?

- WE are Jesus' disciples too!
- Is this story also an instruction for US?
- When we are aiming to help someone NOT YET in the church, would Jesus ever consider taking US through a storm to help them...?

Not long ago I was talking to a Christian man whose family hadn't talked to each other for years. Then one of them died – this is some years ago now – and he got the job of getting it all together for the funeral... He could feel a storm brewing!

Over the years he had **tried** to get them together, but they weren't going to sort out their mess just because HE said so. So it never happened.

But then one of them had died, and somehow the pain of this death allowed my Christian friend to talk to each one of them personally. The upshot of it all was that after the funeral, they all ended up on good terms with each other! And it last to this very day!

When things were plain sailing in their lives, nothing was achieved. But when the storm arrived, it somehow opened a door!

I wonder what door was opened...?

We get a clue in our story. Because as much as I would like to know how to still a storm, the truth is, the disciples didn't learn about stilling storms! WHAT REALLY HAPPENED WAS **THEY BEGAN TO WONDER ABOUT JESUS!**

They didn't only get to see Jesus in action, they especially got to see what a life of FAITH looks like. CALM ... and STRONG!

If Jesus just slept on the beach while they were 'kicking the footy' no one would have batted an eyelid! But He was relaxed and asleep **in the middle of a storm**, a storm that could have killed them!  
HE ... WAS ... CALM!

I wouldn't mind a bit of **THAT!** ... Well, you won't get it on the beach! You will especially FAITHFUL CALM Jesus when your life is in a MESS! You will especially FAITHFUL CALM Jesus in the STORMS of your life! And He is ABLE...!

Someone who knows about the original language, pointed out to me that when Jesus said, **Why are you so afraid** (δειλος)? A different Greek word is used for fear in the next verse for when the disciples were terrified.

<sup>41</sup> **They were terrified** (φοβος) **and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"**

The first word is like a **cowardly fear**. Like when things go wrong in our lives and we react like scared chooks! We'd like to run away! There's a darkness inside of us weakens our spine!

The second is like an **awe fear**. Like a reverence or awe you might experience in the presence of someone mighty! The disciples were starting to get this! The disciples were starting to GET that Jesus did what only GOD could do! And Jesus is here with THEM!

The first fear comes from the negative bits in here (*point to inside yourself*). The assumption that we are on our own!

The emotion of the second fear comes from the wonder of something mighty OUTSIDE yourself. That we are not alone. In fact someone BIGGER than us has got it!

Faith takes you from one fear to the other!  
And a storm of one kind or other is often part of that process!

Just before our story we are told that Jesus explained everything to His disciples. He didn't leave His parables unexplained to them. This was obviously VERY important. They had special catechetical classes with Jesus! Jesus taught them about the truth of God's Word. That was BASIC. But they still didn't get it! So for their next lesson, Jesus took them into a storm!

In last week's parables Jesus clearly taught the truth that when it comes to your life, GOD HAS GOT IT! His kingdom IS AMONG US. God CAN be relied upon.

Jesus' disciples would have clearly HEARD what Jesus said. But it didn't make a scrap of difference to the strength of their faith in God! They were still afraid. Their faith muscles were yet to be exercised and grow!

So Jesus gave them an EXPERIENCE which would begin to make a difference. Now they at least had a bit of awe about who Jesus might be and what He meant by what He said. Their trust was growing!

**So what have you and I learnt about God over the years?**

- that He is dependable?
- that He is powerful?
- that He cares?

I doubt that we have learnt anything, really, until we EXPERIENCE these truths. This is how our learning gets to where it should go! The scripture (Hebrews 5:8) says, <sup>8</sup> ***Son though he (Jesus) was, he learned obedience from what he suffered...*** The storms in our life will have the same value for us!

I wonder if the disciples had faith, what would have they done differently?

- Should they have gone to sleep with Jesus, trusting that no matter what happen, God had it all in hand! Maybe they would be saved from the storm; or maybe they drown and it's time God calls them home!
- Should have they rebuked the wind and waves as Jesus did, believing, as Jesus later said that if they did not doubt and believed in their hearts that it would be done for them (Mark 11:23-24)?

I imagine that the boat they were in was a sail boat.

For a sail boat to go really well, it NEEDS a wind! In fact it goes nowhere without wind!

I could imagine that the disciples felt the early stiff breeze. You know, life with Jesus is a bit adventurous at times. But it's exciting to be with Jesus! It might mean that we get across the lake really quickly!

So you could imagine that the disciples weren't against the breeze, per se. It's just that it finally got too much for them!

That's like us. We can handle what life throws at us. But sometimes it gets too much.

We know the Holy Spirit is always working on strengthening our faith. But the key thing to go away with today, is no matter how well, or poorly, your faith is going, the key to a growing faith, is knowing that life is on Jesus' call, that He is travelling with us, and as with the disciples of old, to know that HE DOESN'T GIVE UP ON US!

He is ALWAYS present with His calm and His authority over the storms of our life.

**SONG: Cornerstone CCLI#6158927**

**Verse 1**

My hope is built on nothing less  
 Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
 I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
 But wholly trust in Jesus' Name  
 (REPEAT)

**Chorus**

Christ alone cornerstone  
 Weak made strong in the Saviour's love  
 Through the storm He is Lord  
 Lord of all

## **Verse 2**

When darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil  
My anchor holds within the veil

## **Interlude**

He is Lord Lord of all

## **Verse 3**

When He shall come with trumpet sound  
Oh may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone  
Faultless stand before the throne

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Dear heavenly Father,

Your Word declares that in our baptism, our old sinful self with all its evil desires dies with Jesus, and that in our baptism we rise with Jesus to new life.

But we find our old evil desires are a bit like a cork. We know they have been drowned in baptism, but they don't drown easily! It's like they keep popping up, fighting for breath. And like the disciples in the storm, we feel so powerless about this.

Have mercy on us! Please forgive us! We desire for our faith to be complete and pure and like a child who knows that their loving Father is always there for them.

Amen

## **ABSOLUTION**

Our heavenly Father HAS had mercy on us! He has sent His own Son to die for us. His Word is true, *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* I therefore declare: Your sin is forgiven! In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **PRAYERS**

Dear heavenly Father

How mysterious Your Word is. You clearly declare Your creative and saving and caring presence through Your Holy Word. Yet when we look for You we are often left wondering! Even despairing that You might not care for us! The storms of our lives blind us to the truth. We are put to the test. Then Your Word prompts us to remember You. And our faith grows. You HAVE got our life in Your hand! You DO care for us!

All of us have friends and family who sometimes wonder about this too. We pray now that their hearts would always be softened toward You, especially those who are suffering right now. You know who they are. Some are suffering mental anguish. Some are lonely. Some, through no fault of their own have suffered financially these past months. Some are in dire need of healing. Hear their prayers, and ours, dear Father. Fill them with Your wholeness in every part of their lives.

We also pray for our community and country. We pray for those in our parliaments – both in leadership and in opposition – that they debate and lead with fairness and mercy. Especially be with our Prime Minister, and all those who interact with world leaders, to ensure the goodness of our lives and all creation. May the generosity of

nations with plenty abound in these COVID times – in both the economic and health needs of all.

Especially bless the Church across the world, that it would continue to shine brightly as Your light to those bleeding for a new and lasting life. Be with our Church-wide Bishop John Henderson and other leaders who are currently managing the changing requirements of synod due to COVID 19.

Yours is the glory forever and ever. Amen.

### **LORDS 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 forever. Amen.

### **FINAL BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you...

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you...

The Lord look upon you with favour and give you peace...

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**SONG: *Lion and the Lamb* CCLI#7038281**

#### **Verse 1**

He's coming on the clouds  
Kings and kingdoms will bow down  
And every chain will break  
As broken hearts declare His praise  
For who can stop the Lord Almighty

#### **Chorus**

Our God is the Lion  
The Lion of Judah  
He's roaring with power  
And fighting our battles  
And every knee will bow before Him  
Our God is the Lamb  
The Lamb that was slain  
For the sins of the world  
His blood breaks the chains  
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb  
Every knee will bow before Him

#### **Verse 2**

So open up the gates  
Make way before the King of kings  
The God who comes to save  
Is here to set the captives free  
For who can stop the Lord Almighty

#### **Bridge**

Who can stop the Lord Almighty  
Who can stop the Lord (Almighty)