

Sunday Worship at Home, 20th June 2021, Third Sunday after Trinity



Opening Prayers:

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Give us the joy of your saving help

and sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.

A Prayer of Confession:

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

We have not always worshipped God, our creator. **Lord, have mercy.**

We have not always followed Christ, our Saviour. **Christ, have mercy.**

We have not always trusted in the Spirit, our guide. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

The Collect for the Third Sunday after Trinity

God our saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power;
hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Reading: Mark 4:35-41

³⁵ One day, when evening had come, Jesus said to the disciples, 'Let us go across to the other side.'³⁶ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him.³⁷ A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped.³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?'³⁹ He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.⁴⁰ He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?'⁴¹ And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

Reflection on the reading:

Teacher, say the disciples, do you not care? Of course Jesus cares - where was he when the storm was raging about them? He was in the boat, with them!

He commands the wind and the sea to be still and they are. Jesus who as part of the Holy Trinity was there in the beginning, measuring the earth, laying the cornerstone and placing limits on the land, sky and sea, now shows his mastery over them by ordering them to be still and they obey him. God calmed the storm for the disciples. He did not calm the storms in Job's life. In the Old Testament reading set for today God talks to Job from out of the storm into the midst of his storm. The message of Job is that God does not make bad things happen to punish us for some great sin and reward us for good behaviour with health and wealth and happiness. Job may have questioned why God treated him so badly but the truth is that when bad things happen, the one person that will never fail to love and care for us is God.

Where was God in Job's misfortune? He was sitting in the dust with Job. Just as he sits with us in the dust of our misfortune. Where is God in the storms of our own lives? He is with us in the storm, just as he was with the disciples in the midst of theirs. Sometimes, like he did for the disciples, He will calm the storm to save us from it. Sometimes like he did with Job he will walk with us, and when we need it, he will carry us through the storm. But always he is with us. The challenge in the times of darkness is to hold onto the light of our faith and trust in him to see us through. **Amen.**

The Creed

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and 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

Be still and pray: In your prayers, include prayers for the church, the needs of the world and our local community. Particularly pray for: Our Prime Minister, the Government and all world leaders they struggle to deal with new variants of COVID-19 and manage our release from lockdowns; for front-line health workers caring for the sick and vulnerable, and administering vaccinations; for healing and peace for those who are ill; and for the souls of those who have recently died and comfort for those who are mourning their loss.

Finish with The Lord's Prayer:

Conclusion

May God bless us and keep us, make his face to shine upon us, and give us his peace; **Amen**

Reverend Eddie