

Sunday Worship at Home, 20th February 2022, 2nd Sunday Before Lent.



Opening Prayers:

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Make me a clean heart, O God,

and renew a right spirit within me.

A Prayer of Confession:

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

We are often slow to follow the example of Christ. **Lord, have mercy.**

We often fail to be known as Christ's disciples. **Christ, have mercy.**

We often fail to walk the way of the cross. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Collect

Almighty God,

you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image:

teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen**

Reading: Luke 8:22-26

²² One day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they put out, ²³ and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. ²⁴ They went to him and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. ²⁵ He said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?"

Reflection on the reading:

Jesus and his disciples are in a boat on the sea of Galilee, presumably it's quite a large boat, there is room for thirteen passengers, at least one of whom is sleeping. There would have been a crew, and three of the disciples were fishermen meaning that at least a third of those on board were experienced sailors, used to storms on the lake and yet this storm was so bad they were terrified, convinced that they were going to sink and drown. And what was Jesus doing while all this was going on? He was asleep until they woke him up!

It may seem sometimes, especially when we are going through a particularly bad stormy patch in life that God is sleeping on the job, uninterested in the trouble we are in. But it is worth remembering that Jesus was NOT uninterested in the disciple's trouble, he was with them in the boat. He in the middle of their trouble. However, he does not help them until the disciples wake him and call on him for aid. I don't know what they expected him to do but it is clear that they did not expect him to tell the waves and the wind to be quiet, and they certainly did not expect the waves and the wind to obey. Then comes the challenge to the disciples that is the same for us today as it was then.

Jesus was with them in their trouble, but where was their faith? And where is yours? Do you have faith in Jesus to be with you and to see you through the difficult and dark times in life? Are you ready to call on him for help? And are you ready for him not to do what you want, but what you don't expect? 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:

Please pray for the church, the needs of the world and our local community. Particularly pray for: Areas of the world affected by War, natural disasters and man-made disasters, and for those who have been badly affected by Storm Eunice; for peace to prevail in areas of rising international tension and in particular Ukraine; for healing and peace for those who are ill; for the souls of those who have recently died, and comfort for those who are mourning their loss; and finally for ourselves, that we may be ready and willing to respond to listen to God's calling and obedient to his will. ***Finish with The Lord's Prayer:***

Conclusion

God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to serve and worship you now and always. **To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

Reverend Eddie