



**CAMEL-ALLEN BENEFICE
WORSHIP AT HOME - 20 JUNE 2021**

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

Welcome to this morning's Home worship. Although we are alone at home, we stand before the throne of God with countless crowds from every nation and race, tribe and language.

Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour, power and might be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Loving God, we have come to worship you.

Help us to pray to you in faith, to sing your praise with gratitude, and to listen to your word with eagerness; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN:

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Saviour, whose almighty word
The winds and waves submissive heard,
Who walkedst on the foaming deep,
And calm, amidst its rage, didst sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O sacred Spirit, who didst brood
Upon the waters dark and rude,
And did their angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,
Our brethren shield in danger's hour.
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them whereso'er they go,
And ever let there rise to thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

WE SAY SORRY TO GOD AND RECEIVE FORGIVENESS

Let us bring to mind our sin, our failure to value the love of others and our failure to love as Christ has loved us.

Your Love gives us life:
We fail to live as your children.
Lord, have mercy
Lord, Have mercy.

You call us to do good:
We seek our own good.
Christ, have mercy
Christ, have mercy.

You hear us when we cry for help:
We ignore the cries of others.
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy.



May the God of love and power,
Forgive you and free you from your sins
Heal and strengthen you by his spirit,
And raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We each pray silently for a moment

Pulling together our prayers, we pray, in the words of the Collect:

God our Saviour,
look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
and help us to hold fast
to your promises of peace
won for us by your Son
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

Psalm 107: 23 - 32

Some went down to the sea in ships,
doing business on the mighty waters;
they saw the deeds of the Lord,
his wondrous works in the deep.
For he commanded and raised the stormy wind,
which lifted up the waves of the sea.
They mounted up to heaven, they went down to the depths;
their courage melted away in their calamity;
they reeled and staggered like drunkards,
and were at their wits' end.
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he brought them out from their distress;
he made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.

Then they were glad because they had quiet,
and he brought them to their desired haven.
Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
Let them extol him in the congregation of the people,
and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

MARK 4: 35 - 41

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "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 windstorm 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?"

HYMN

Jesus calls us over the tumult
Of our life's wild, restless, sea;
Day by day His sweet voice soundeth,
Saying, "Christian, follow Me!"

As of old Saint Andrew heard it
By the Galilean lake,

Turned from home and toil and kindred,
Leaving all for Jesus' sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying, "Christian, love Me more!"

In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toil and hours of ease,
Still He calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love Me more than these!"

Jesus calls us! By Thy mercies,
Saviour may we hear Thy call,
Give our hearts to Thine obedience,
Serve and love Thee best of all.



REFLECTION

“Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?”

I read somewhere that *“Why are you afraid?”* is the most common question in the New Testament. Certain it is that this is not the only occasion on which Jesus poses that searching question, *“Why are you afraid?”*. His own faith is so perfect and strong that it is almost as if he cannot quite understand why we should ever think there is any reason to be fearful.

In our Gospel passage Jesus asks this question when he is roused from slumber by the terrified disciples who think that their boat is about to sink. There are a number of little details about this story which cause some to say that they are the hallmark of an eyewitness account: such as Jesus being asleep in the stern of the boat on a cushion, and of other boats, of which we hear nothing more, setting out with the one carrying Jesus. These details add nothing to the point of the story, which is of Jesus being woken and calming the storm, so why are they included? Mark does not usually include ancillary details as he rushes from one event, usually “immediately”, to another. But, when we are piecing a story together from memory, we often include incidental details simply because they are there in our mind’s eye. Is

his, then, an eyewitness account from someone who was actually in that boat?

The description of a violent storm suddenly arising on the Sea of Galilee certainly has the ring of truth about it. I witnessed one from the Golan Heights above the Sea when I was there about 18 months ago. The Sea, actually just a very large lake, sits at 696 feet below sea level, in a basin almost surrounded by hills, causing sudden downdrafts to sweep through the gap in the hills, resulting in violent storms on the lake. This appears to be what happened in our story.

Others, of course, say that it is pointless to ask whether this story is historically accurate. The point of the story, they say, is to demonstrate both the humanity of Jesus, fast asleep after an exhausting day preaching to the multitudes on the shore from the boat, who asks the disciples to take him away to the opposite shore, which they do, *“just as he was”*, and then falling into a deep sleep which is not even disturbed by the sudden, violent storm tossing the boat about: but also to demonstrate the divinity of the one whom even the wind and the sea obey when he tells them to be calm and hold their peace.

It is, perhaps, a cliché to speak of the storms of life: but there are times when, like the sudden, violent storm of the story, something unexpected hits us out of an apparently clear, blue sky. We find

ourselves suddenly being tossed about in a sea of uncertainty, fearful for the future, with our little boat filling up and on the verge of sinking. Perhaps we have all experienced this to a greater or lesser extent over the past 15 months or so. It may happen with a bereavement; loss of a livelihood; a life changing medical diagnosis for ourselves or a loved one. It may happen for any number of reasons. The fear and anxiety it produces may be sudden or grow on us gradually with a dawning realisation that all is not well with our own, personal little world. None of us are immune from this and God does not guarantee that we will be. What he does do is assure us that, whatever the cause of our distress, anxiety or fears, he will be with us to share in our sufferings and that, however dark and stormy the night, a new, brighter morning will eventually dawn. It is at these times, when we are experiencing deep anxieties, doubts and fears, that we most need to remember Jesus's question:

"Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"



HYMN:

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
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 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.

Will your eyes behold through the morning light,
The city of gold and the harbour bright?
Will you anchor safe by the heav'nly shore
When life's storms are past for evermore?

WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH

**We believe in God the Father,
From whom every family
In heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
Who lives in our heart 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.**

PRAYERS

in the power of the Son, let us pray to God who governs all in heaven and on earth:

Lord, inspire your church always to press forward to the goal to which she is called, to provide inspiration and comfort to the faithful, and to spread your word where it is unknown or unheard. Provide strength and fortitude to all who minister in your church, lay or ordained, and in whatever role, that they may always continue to be faithful servants to your people and to you.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Look with mercy on a world where the greed of self aggrandisement and personal gain deprives so many of the full and free lives you would wish them to enjoy. As we look back on the visit of so many world leaders to the G7 summit in our county, we pray that they will each return to their respective governments inspired afresh to bring justice, relief from poverty and oppression, and peace and reconciliation to a broken world.

Guide all those in authority to govern with integrity and wisdom and in accordance with the true values of your kingdom.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

In all our dealings with others, teach us not to trust to our own desires but to follow where Christ has led. Help us to help those who are in need, whether through poverty, oppression, exploitation, chance

misfortune, illness or disease. Relieve their needs and give them hope for renewal in your purpose for them.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for ourselves that whenever we are feeling anxious, distressed or fearful, you will give us the strength and courage to hold on to our faith like an anchor and not be afraid.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

In a moment of quiet we hold before you those known to us who are in need of your comfort and healing touch.

Silence

We give thanks for those who have already come to enjoy your peace and we pray that they will enjoy the perfection of all those good things which they knew only partially in this world.

We pray as those who also seek to be faithful inheritors of your kingdom. And so,

Merciful Father
Accept these prayers
For the sake of your Son
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
They 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:

Be still, my soul: the Lord is at your side.
bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in ev'ry change, he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul: the tempests still obey
his voice, who ruled them once on Galilee.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
sorrow forgotten, love's pure joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

May God the Father from whom every family
In earth and heaven receives its name
Strengthen you with his spirit in your inner being,
So that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;

And the blessing of God Almighty,
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Be amongst you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.