

**KSAT Worship Service for Sunday – 9th August 2020.**  
**THEME – ‘Keeping focussed on Jesus’**

Thanks to Sue Thackray for this week's service.

Before we start our service this morning we need to prepare ourselves by concentrating on being quiet as we come into our Lord's presence.

I weave a silence on to my lips  
I weave a silence into my mind  
I weave a silence within my heart  
I close my ears to distractions  
I close my eyes to attractions  
I close my heart to temptations

Calm me O Lord as you stilled the storm  
Still me O Lord, keep me from harm  
Let all the tumult within me cease  
Enfold me Lord in your peace

We will begin with prayers of preparation, a time to centre ourselves on His presence and His love. We affirm that we are in His presence and that He is with us wherever we are. We forever need to be reminding ourselves that the Lord is here, His Spirit is with us.

**Let's pray:**

You, Lord, are in this place  
Your presence fills it  
Your presence is Peace.

You, Lord, are in my heart  
Your presence fills it  
Your presence is Peace.

You, Lord, are in my mind  
Your presence fills it  
Your presence is Peace.

You, Lord, are in my life  
Your presence fills it  
Your presence is Peace.

Help us, O Lord, to know that we dwell in you and you dwell in us this day and for evermore. **Amen**

**HYMN MP 1086 – Light of the world (Here I am to worship)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MmRGSEG2LM>

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes let me see,

Beauty that made this heart adore you, hope of a life spent with you.

*So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that you're my God  
You've altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.*

King of all days, O so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above,  
Humbly you came to the earth you created, all for love's sake became poor.

I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross

I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross

We are looking today at the Gospel of Matthew Ch14 v22-33 – **Jesus walks on water**.  
This passage has many messages to us today and the more I read it and study  
information about and around this miracle, the more I learn which is good; no, very  
good!!

### **Reading – Matthew 14 v 22-33 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)**

*Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "'Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.'" And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."*

## **Reflection**

### Introduction

This account in Matthew is very familiar to me and maybe to most of us but it raises many questions – one being:

'Why did Jesus leave the disciples for nine hours battling against a fearsome storm in a small boat alone?'

I know from experience what being on open and extremely rough sea in a small boat is like. Going over to St Kilda, an archipelago, 40 miles west of the Isle of Lewis, in the Outer Hebrides in the North Atlantic Ocean, we went on an ex-fishing boat, quite small but not as small as the disciples' boat and we had the advantage of an engine. It took us about 9 hours and it was exciting but frightening at the same time. The disciples must have been frightened and exhausted especially the ones who weren't fishermen by trade.

This following reflection goes a long way to answering my question:

Peter drops everything to follow Jesus which is exciting; it is exciting to follow Jesus isn't it? Until one day you realise you can't see Him at all. So this day Jesus wanted time alone to be with his Father, to pray. So He sent the disciples off ahead of Him to cross the Sea of Galilee. The disciples probably felt a bit disappointed because Jesus called them to be with Him wherever he goes and now He is leaving them alone to cross the sea.

But in life today with all the troubles and stress, Jesus can feel a long way off at times. We can feel as if we are drifting alone, wondering where Jesus is.

The disciples were alone in their tiny boat, when a ferocious storm comes in an instant. Lots of things happen in life in an instant – people tell us lies, illness, accident, bereavement and dark thoughts which can cause us many problems – to name a few. You can feel like you are sinking especially when it seems Jesus is nowhere to be seen.

The disciples see 'something' walking on the water and are afraid crying, "Is it a ghost?" But it is Peter who stands up and shouts, "Jesus if that's you, call me to you on the water." Jesus responds, "Come." And Peter does it, he steps out of the boat onto the water, what a miracle! That is until Peter remembers the storm and takes his eyes off Jesus and looks at the waves – and that's when Peter sinks!

As long as Peter was staring at the problem rather than Jesus, the storm was going to drag him down. It's when we think our troubles are bigger than Jesus that we sink. As long as we keep our eyes on our problems instead of looking at Jesus, the storm overtakes us.

Peter cries, "Lord save me." Jesus saves Peter in a flash, when Peter realises his own hopelessness. Jesus says to him and us now, 'I am right here, I have been here all the time'. Maybe the waves and the storms are bigger than us; Jesus is our only hope and even if He feels far away, He is right there to help us. Jesus never says there won't be storms – the pain of life will smash into us before we even know it's here, in an instant, and when the problems rise and the worries of life wash over us, Jesus says, 'Look at Me, keep your eyes on Me, call out to Me'. I may feel far away, but I never am. Because in dark storms it is hard at times to follow Jesus and it is then that Jesus gives us power to walk in the storm.

So why did He leave the disciples alone in the boat battling the storm?

So that their faith in Him would grow?

To impress upon them that they must rely and keep their focus on Him, and put their trust in Him in all circumstances?

To make them realise that He truly is the Son of God? (And Jesus still waits for people to realise who He is today!)

Probably all these reasons and more! We need to keep our focus on Jesus especially during the difficult times we live in today and put our trust in Him. Psalm 145 v 18 says *"The Lord is near to all who call on Him."* Never forget that God provides for us and He always will, because He is there for us and will never fail because He knows, He cares, He loves, He promises and He fulfils. **Amen**

### **Let's pray:**

I can rely too much on myself and, like Peter, lose sight of where I am going. Help me, Jesus, to keep my eyes fixed on You and to trust that You reach out to me, offering me loving help. **Amen**

### **HYMN MP 275 – I heard the voice of Jesus say**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUVCpF8-VuE>

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Come unto Me and rest,  
lay down, thou weary one, lay down thy head upon My breast,'  
I came to Jesus as I was, weary, worn and sad  
I found in Him a resting place and He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Behold I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one, stoop down and drink and live,'  
I came to Jesus and I drank of that life giving stream  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived and now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'I am this dark world's light  
look unto Me, thy morn shall rise, and all my day be bright,'  
I looked to Jesus and I found in Him my star, my sun  
and in that light of life I'll walk till travelling days are done.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Dear Lord

You know that we are all still going through and living in testing times due to the restricted lifestyle we have had to accept. But now some places of worship have been able to open so that we can get together to praise and to show our love for You. This is certainly a wonderful blessing. How blessed we are to know You as our Saviour and Lord.

We want to pray for all the people who are unable, for whatever reason, to attend church at this time.....

We pray for all going through really emotional times whether illness, bereavement, loneliness, anxiety or other problems. We lift them up here to Your care Lord

.....

We pray that people will respect the safety rules as the number of people affected with the virus has been rapidly rising in certain areas of the country.

Also, we pray for other countries in the world affected by this virus, some are affected so much that the spread is now out of control. The poor and vulnerable in the populations seem to be particularly affected. We pray that their leaders, the people in power will make wise decisions with the welfare of their people at the forefront of their minds.

Finally Lord, we pray now for anyone who is on our minds at the moment, for whatever reason – we now lift them up to you..... **Amen**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **HYMN MP 1019 You are my strength**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYxJc0PTXiY>

You are my strength when I am weak, You are the treasure that I seek, You are my all  
in all;

Seeking You as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool, You are my all in all.

*Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name; Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy if your name.*

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame rising again, I bless your name, You are my all in  
all

When I fall down You pick me up, when I am dry You fill my cup, You are my all in all

To conclude a quote from C H Spurgeon, "I have a great need for Christ. I have a great Christ for my need." **Amen** to that!

## **THOUGHT TO TAKE AWAY**

Jesus is still with us in the storm, reminding us of what He's done. Strengthening us for the trials we face and encouraging us not to forget that our biggest problems have already been solved!



## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Let's pray

Peter only knew life as a fisherman. But he got out of the boat and followed You, Lord.

Help us to hear Your voice, get out of our boats and follow You.

In the week ahead, may the world and its problems decrease and You increase in our lives. Keep us focused on Your way, looking ahead and always trusting You. **Amen**