

Gospel Reflection on Mark 4.35-41

Today's Gospel is about Jesus calming the Storm on the sea of Galilee. Water has great power. It has the power for life. It is a source of new life; it is an absolute essential for plant and animal life on our planet. We know only too well how fundamental shortages of water can cause immense human suffering in parts of the world such as Africa. It is an essential for our own survival. It also has the power to clean and ensure our good health. It is used in baptism as a sign of washing our sins away. But it has another power, a huge destructive power. The Jews had a dread of the sea. The disciples are terrified and Jesus scolds them for having so little faith. But nevertheless he calms the storm as they ask.

We are in particularly stormy times at the present with Covid (I hesitate to say the word yet again!), but we must not forget that there are various areas of conflict throughout the world and it has ever been thus. There are injustice and oppression, prejudice and hatred, starvation and disease in many parts of this planet. As Christians we are called to fight these things with the Christian qualities that Paul lists and, with that faith to which Jesus calls the disciples and us.

Phil Baker, Reader



Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 11.04.21 until the end of June

Meeting ID: 843 1587 4178

Passcode: 180903

Telephone numbers (as previously) 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 27.06.2021 4th Sunday after Trinity

SERVICES 10.30am by Zoom, 12 noon in Church

READINGS

OT Wisdom of Solomon 1: 13-15
2: 23-24

NT 2 Corinthians 8: 7-15

GOSPEL Mark 5: 21-43



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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 20th June 2021

Third Sunday after Trinity

10.30am by Zoom (phone-in available)

12 noon Mass in Church

You may have been disappointed or relieved by the government's announcement on Monday this week, or a mixture of both, but it does mean that we are still operating on the current restrictions. The only obvious change for us is that **wedding numbers** seem to be capped at the capacity of the building, for St Thomas c45 people. That also means that there is room on Sunday for more people at Mass—do please **think about a return** if you have not done so already.

I repeat a few **ground rules** going forward, and a question: we will move slowly trying to establish patterns by the autumn, and guided by national and other church recommendations; we may experiment with new timings for short periods; this will be a 'new normal', in other words not all of what we did before will be automatically re-instated; we will try to learn from this pandemic experience, both the good and the bad; our connections to the local community are our purpose and lifeblood, so this is the moment to be bold and outward looking. **The question:** what evidence is there that our learning from this Covid experience is reflected in our plans?

Fr David



Collect

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Job 38: 1-11

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: 'Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. 'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? 'Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?—when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, and said, "Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped?"

2 Corinthians 6: 1-13

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you. 'See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of

salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

Mark 4: 35-41

On that day, when evening had come, Jesus said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 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?' 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. He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' 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?'

Post Communion

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

NOTICES

House Group. Tuesday evenings. Please contact Ian Totterdell for Zoom details.

Community Larder The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon. The collecting point is in the Choir Vestry via the Tower door. Please continue to be generous.

Knit and Natter Update for June 2021
We shall continue meeting either in person at 10.30am at 19 Maple Road or via Zoom at 11.15am on Thursdays up to 19th July. All details from Jenny on 01392 498715.

200 Club If you would like to join the 200 Club please see Andrew Withers.

Young at Hearts begins again on Wednesday, 23rd June. 2-4pm in the Hall.

