

## Worship for Sunday 20th June 2021

from Jeanne Moore

Morning everyone I trust you are well and perhaps able to enjoy the sunshine while it lasts. I thank you once more for your keeping in touch with me through Brian. As ever you are in my daily prayers. Many of you know that Tuesday Evening Prayer time with you was my favourite time of all. So I have decided to ask you to 'join' me in a time of prayer every or any Tuesday evening from 6pm onwards and so share together that special time with the Lord as we used to do. Join me also in praying that the Sunday meetings which Brian is setting up will also start to open up our worship once again.

"Give praise to the Lord, proclaim His name;  
Tell of all His wonderful acts.  
Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.  
Look to the Lord and His strength,  
Seek His face always". Psalm 105

*Suggested hymn :*

### ALL HEAVEN DECLARES

The glory of the risen Lord.  
Who can compare  
With the beauty of the Lord?  
Forever He will be  
The Lamb upon the throne.  
I gladly bow the knee  
And worship Him alone.

I will proclaim  
The glory of the risen Lord,  
Who once was slain  
To reconcile man to God.  
Forever You will be  
The Lamb upon the throne.  
I gladly bow the knee  
And worship You alone.

### Psalm 133

<sup>1</sup>How good and pleasant it is  
when God's people live together in unity!  
<sup>2</sup>It is like precious oil poured on the head,  
running down on the beard,  
running down on Aaron's beard,  
down on the collar of his robe.  
<sup>3</sup>It is as if the dew of Hermon  
were falling on Mount Zion.  
For there the LORD bestows his blessing,  
even life forevermore.

### Comment on Psalm 133

To live at peace with others is a wonderful thing, because if we are at peace it means that we have peace within us. The peace that comes from our love relationship with God. As that relationship deepens, so will our love for others. Love at its finest and it will flow freely like the oil poured on Aaron's beard, from ourselves to others. God's people living in unity.

*We pray....* Father we give you thanks that you are a God of infinite, unstoppable love.

Thank you for the comfort of knowing that we are loved by you.

Cleanse us of anything that holds us back from receiving that love;  
anoint us with it in the depths of our being and help us to freely, generously, give it away.  
Amen.

### Reading Mk 4 : 35 - 41: Jesus Calms the Storm

<sup>35</sup> That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." <sup>36</sup> Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. <sup>37</sup> A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. <sup>38</sup> Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" <sup>39</sup> He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. <sup>40</sup> He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" <sup>41</sup> They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"



## Reflection

Today we have the familiar reading from Mark of Jesus calming the storm. The storm which came very suddenly. The Sea of Galilee is famous for its squalls. It is situated in a basin 600 ft below sea level and surrounded by mountains. The rivers would cut ravines which acted as funnels to draw cold winds from the mountains which in turn would whip up the sea into a storm. The disciples were well used to storms, being fishermen, and they knew how easily boats could be swamped and overturned by the huge waves, leaving them to drown and they were afraid. They turned to Jesus who was sleeping soundly on a cushion apparently oblivious of the storm raging about them and the disciples had to wake him (38).

So how come Jesus could sleep so soundly? He entrusted himself into God's hands at all times. 'Don't you care' the frightened disciples asked him. Well of course Jesus cared which they knew really, but they were afraid and confused so they protested to him. They shared their feelings honestly with him. That was the best thing they could have done. Be honest with the Lord. We can think at times when we are afraid and confused that God has forgotten us. The best thing we can do is to share those feelings honestly and openly with God through prayer.

'Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?' Jesus making the point that they wouldn't be afraid if only they had faith in God. Most of us are afraid of something and bad things are usually caused by fear; war being a good example. People can become sick in body because they are afraid. Most of our unhappiness is caused by fear. Our fears will lessen the more we share them with God in prayer.

Any of us can fall or fail, but no one can ever fall beyond the reach of God's grace. All it takes is that genuine honest cry for help to God and he will begin to turn things around in our lives.

The Lord rescues all who call on him, whoever they are and whatever situation they find themselves in.

**So, we pray;** Loving God, thank you that no cry for help ever goes unheard. Thank you that your love watches over us constantly, forever longing to restore us from our brokenness.

Thank you that you are our rescuer and perfect friend.

Save us and help us to turn to you  
Not only in our hour of need  
but very moment of our lives.

Thank you that no cry for help  
ever goes unheard. Amen.  
O God beyond me,  
God beside me,  
God within me.

## The Lord's Prayer (traditional version):

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy 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

Suggested hymn: Faithful One so unchanging.

**FAITHFUL ONE**, so unchanging,  
Ageless One, You're my Rock of peace.  
Lord of all, I depend on You,  
I call out to You again and again.  
I call out to You again and again.  
You are my rock in times of trouble.  
You lift me up when I fall down.  
All through the storm Your love is the anchor,  
My hope is in You alone

**The blessing:** Now may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with and remain with us always. **Amen.**

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