



Jersey Methodist Circuit

Sunday 20th June 2021

Revd Nico Hilmy-Jones, *“Do not be Afriad! “ (12th in Ordinary)*

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use as a supplement for the On-Line services that others may join with you..

Welcome

Call to Worship

and Lighting of the Candle

Gracious God, our hearts are blessed as we gather before You today. You have given us freedom from all our transgressions and joy in exchange for heavy hearts. You are the refuge we seek when we are troubled and the courage we need when we walk our journey's of faith. Bless us today with Your steadfast love as we declare our trust in You. **AMEN.**

Hymn *Mission Praise 473*

My hope is built on nothing less

Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' name

*On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand*

When darkness veils his lovely face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
Chorus

Do not
be afraid
for I am
with you

His oath, his covenant,
his blood
Supports me
in the whelming flood
When all around
my soul gives way
He then is all my hope and stay

When He shall come
with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in his
righteousness alone
Faultless to stand
before the throne

Edward Mote (1797-1874)

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Opening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

(Hazel Le Boutillier, Georgetown)

Let us pray.....O Lord,

You spoke and light broke at the dawning of Creation. We thank you for our world and its changing seasons. For the beauty of flowers, trees and birdsong; that we can share friendship, laughter and conversation. For all the gifts you shower upon us especially your gift to us of unconditional love and care, abundant mercies and blessings. You have made our lives rich through Your Mercy, bright with Your Hope and vibrant with Your Love.

We thank You for that love for each one of us, which sacrificed Your only Son in order that we might be forgiven.

We thank you for Your precious Word, the Bible, which is as daily bread to our mind and spirit. The Holy Scriptures illumine our daily walk with You and bring comfort to our lives.

We thank You for all who have guarded Your Word through history, translated Your Word and taught its truths. May Your Word be alive in us today. Speak with us, we pray, that we may continually be filled to overflowing with Your Holy Spirit.

So May we walk with You in truthful Peace. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

*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.



READING: Mark 4:35-41

(Michael Labey, St. Martin)

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 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?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Message (Nico)

When I was a teenager, I was a competitive swimmer. I was actually quite good and won a lot of my events and set some swim records. I remember the swim suits we all wore, back then. They were made of nylon, and of course, to us, they were enough. We would wear these nylon suits, with our team colours at every swim meet and be proud. In any kind of competitive sport they are always coming out with the perfect product. The one product that you would wear and suddenly your athletic life would be transformed. If you wear these trainers, you could run marathons. If you play with this tennis racket you could play like you were at Wimbledon.

At one point the swimsuit material changed and I remember my mother buying me the new and improved swimsuit- it was a suit with two poppers on the shoulder, made of lycra. The idea was that it was so tight, that it would feel like a second skin when you wore it. In-between each event we had to un-pop these poppers because it could cut off our circulation. At first, not everyone had them, so when they saw you wearing this fabulous suit, suddenly you were a threat. I was told by my Coach to walk up to the swim block and look around me with this 'gritty face' and stare at all my competitors and then dramatically I would pop those poppers and then suddenly I was the one to beat, I was the one who could out swim anyone

and unless you too owned this amazing, incredible suit, you would be left behind. Amidst intense cheering of 'QUICK NIC, QUICK NIC, QUICK NIC' over and over again, wearing this fast swim suit, I was the one to fear, in the water. Now I don't know if it made much of a difference, if by wearing it you would suddenly win all your events and break swim records. What seemed to matter most was that it struck fear in those who saw you wearing it. You even felt *faster and better* when you wore it, and quite possibly the psychological effect of owning one, was enough to make you believe you could win anything and you looked tough, fast and fearless as a result.



This idea of fear of the unknown brings us into the heart of our Gospel lesson.

We find Jesus and the Disciples retreating from the crowds, after a time of Jesus' teaching, boarding a boat, and heading across the sea. Jesus, tired from all the work he'd been doing, falls asleep in the back of the boat. Soon, however, a great storm rises, knocking the boat around, and the disciples become frightened by the

ferociousness of this particular storm, raging all around them. Now, they were experienced fishermen, who weren't easily frightened by storms but this one was obviously one of the nastiest ones they had experienced. They were in great danger, despite their skill and experience. Waves are breaking over the sides of the boat; the wind is fierce and the boat fills with water, despite all their attempts to bail. Everyone is working hard at trying to stay alive, knowing that drowning is a real possibility. They look for Jesus who is asleep and say: "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?", but really they are shouting in fear that they will all perish. Jesus wakes up and says to the storm, "Quiet. Be still.", and then suddenly everything is calm again. Turning to the Disciples he says: "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?". Our short passage closes with the disciples astonished saying: "who is this, even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Every single one of us, at some point has been afraid of something that has happened in our lives. Perhaps some of us are afraid of spiders or mice and it strikes fear in our hearts when we see one. But, then there are other fears, the effects of huge Hurricanes or tornados that have left a house utterly destroyed or a fear like the Disciples experienced, of a raging storm, out of control. The Disciples discover the limits of their own abilities; they couldn't handle this storm, and in their fright they lash out at Jesus, accusing

him of a failure to care for them. Jesus, we read, turns to his Disciples and asked, "Why are you so afraid? Don't you have faith? Don't you trust that I am with you during the storms of life? Where is your faith?" In our Gospel lesson, Jesus is teaching us how our faith must be fearless. In our faith journeys, we meet up with all sorts of difficulties and things that cause us to stumble and even question our faith. And, perhaps during those times the words of Jesus sometimes seem to offer little comfort. Our news reports horrible acts of inhumanity, of terror and dreadful assaults on human bodies or human spirits. We face difficulties in our lives from illnesses, broken relationships, loneliness, money problems and now covid. So maybe we too are tempted to lose faith just like the Disciples in the boat. This story from Mark, is an invitation for us to trust God not merely in the good times but in the hard and difficult times. The Disciples did not realise that the power and presence of God was with them during their storm and at times, we forget that too, especially during our own personal storms of life and that Jesus is wading in the water with us and reaching out to us in those trying moments when we too are drowning and ready to go under.

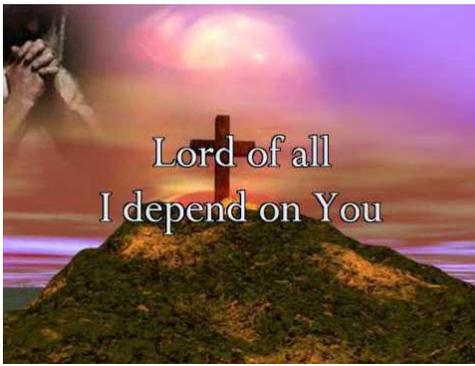
God is calling us to reach out to Him, to have a deeper relationship with Him, to enter the deep uncharted, unknown storms and deep waters in our lives. Maybe we want to stay in the shallow water, where it is safe and familiar but

God wants us to go into the deep water, to face those storms and to experience God in our time of need. The journey is not easy, but it begins when we see the power that sits in our metaphoric boats and works miracles all around us all of the time. Jesus is with us and he has promised us that he will be with us. The call to trust in Jesus requires commitment, courage and great faith. It involves transformation and changing our old ways. It involves a certain clarity that comes from knowing our true condition as a human being and the way we too flounder and are unsure when we are faced with hard and difficult moments. Knowing who we are, underneath the surface of things, in the deep water where we live with our hurts and fears, our anguish and hopes can make us feel vulnerable and we would rather retreat than face some of these overwhelming things. And to be honest, it is hard to ask anyone for help and to rely on people to lift us up. We are proud people maybe independent and maybe, you are like me, stubborn and unwilling to ask for help even when I need it, thinking we can muddle along and fix our own problems or we even believe that no one can really help us or would even want to help us. It is so hard to ask for help and even to turn to God for help and it humbles us and makes us feel weak. But, there are times when we all need help, times when we must turn to other people and to God when we feel alone and we simply can't do it on our own. And when we trust in that, we know that God is there to lift us up

from those dark murky waters we find ourselves in and there is comfort in that and we are able to face our storms of life with more confidence because we are being held by God's unconditional love. It is our faith in God, our knowledge that God loves us and will be with us, that gives us strength. It is our faith that supports us even when our lives are filled with loss or stress or worry or hardships. Just like Jesus helped his Disciples to see beyond the obvious to a deeper, more important message, God too has the answers to our questions. We just have to ask, connect, trust and have faith.



So hold onto your faith and keep going, even when you are afraid. Keep trusting your faith and take heart that God is with you no matter what life brings your way. There is no promise that we will be spared from the little storms of life nor the big storms of life, but God did promise, one thing: "Do not be afraid, I will be with you." and that changes everything. AMEN.



Prayers of Intercession

(Hazel Le Boutillier, Georgetown)

Let us pray.....O God our Father, we pray for our broken world, for those who are suffering, whose lives and future are overshadowed by violence, war and famine; for areas of natural disaster; for the people of the world to unite and share the resources of our planet more effectively, for less wastage of energy and food, so that the hungry may be fed. We pray for those in special need, who are ill, anxious, bereaved, frightened or lonely. We name any especially known to us now before You, Lord, placing them at the foot of Your Cross, asking that they may receive Your Healing, Love, Grace and Peace. As You stilled the storm on the Sea of Galilee, may each one's personal storms be stilled. We pray lastly for ourselves. God of journeying love, You call us to be Pilgrims together in Christ. Open our hearts to Your transforming Grace, that we may discover Your Light in the neighbours we meet. Move our hearts with compassion that we may move others. Challenge us with Your message that we may challenge others. Nurture us when we doubt or are fearful, that we may nurture others. Walk alongside us day by day, guarding and directing us in all that we do or say, so that in our life of service, one to another, we may find true joy and everlasting Peace. These prayers, both spoken and unspoken, we offer in Your Holy Name. Amen.

Hymn Mission Praise 825

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.

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.

Brian Doerksen (born 1965)

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Hymn Mission Praise 1003

My Jesus my Saviour

Lord there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love

My comfort, my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You

Shout to the Lord
All the Earth, let us sing
Power and majesty
Praise to the King
Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name

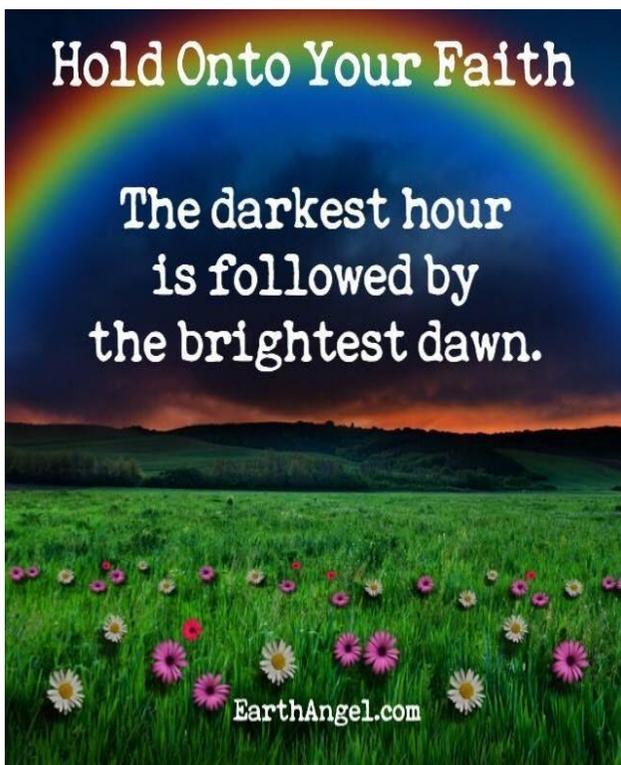
I sing for joy at the work
Of Your hand
Forever I'll love You
Forever I'll stand
Nothing compares
To the promise I have
In You

Darlene Zschech

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**Hold
Fast
To Your
Faith!**

-Bishop Neil C. Ellis



Blessing and Benediction

May God deliver you
from all that would hurt you;
May Christ Jesus calm all that would
frighten you;
and may the Holy Spirit sustain you in
patience and genuine love.

May the blessing of God the Father,
Son and Holy Spirit, be among us and
remain with us always. AMEN.