

# Reflections for 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity

### Stilling the storm

When I read the story in our gospel reading this week, it always reminds me of these words from Psalm 124 (verse 2, 4):

If the Lord had not been on our side ...  
Then would the waters have overwhelmed us  
and the torrent gone over our soul

Perhaps the disciples of Jesus remembered those words as they struggled with their boat as it was buffeted by the wind and waves, while, to their amazement, Jesus slept peacefully at the back of the boat. Their worry turned to panic as they eventually woke him and said, 'Teacher, don't you care if we drown?' And then, in response to Jesus' presence and his words, 'Peace, be still', the wind and waves died down, and all was calm.

It is a powerful story, and a powerful image. But to see its deeper meaning, it can help us to remember that the Jewish people were not great seafarers, and, throughout the Old Testament, the images of water, the sea, and storms are often used to express the idea of chaos, disorder, of things being out of control.

So the good news from this story is about the assurance of God's peace, in Jesus Christ. But this is not a promise that we can easily escape the challenges that life brings. I expect we all have times when escaping from the storms of life seems like an attractive idea, and sometimes we do need a break or rest from the demands on us, as Jesus did in his human life. But our faith is not a way of escaping from the pressures and challenges, the hurt and confusion, that come to us as part of life's experience. It is not a way of avoiding those things, but the way, by the grace of God, to be strengthened and equipped to face the storms of life.

Revd John Waller

Jesus, stiller of storms,  
still the storms of our hearts and minds,  
the rage of anger,  
the turbulence of fear,  
and bring us your peace. Amen.

Bible readings: Job 38. 1-11; 2 Corinthians 6. 1-13; Mark 4. 35-41

Story: 'The Storm on the Lake' (based on the gospel passage)