

Monday 24th August 2020

Jesus Calms the Storm

Mark 4:35-41 *“That day when evening came, he (Jesus) 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 afraid? Do you still have no faith?’

They were terrified and asked each other, ‘Who is this? Even the wind and waves obey him.’”

Storms were known to rage over the Sea of Galilee which was well below sea level and surrounded by hills. The disciples had spent a lot of time with Jesus and they had seen him performing many miracles. You would think that they would have had implicit trust and faith in him. Not so. As it turned out it became clear that they were afraid that the storm would capsize their vessel and that they would be killed. What was happening would have made them feel out of control.

The idea of Jesus calming the storm is relevant in our world today. Storms come into our lives, either externally or internally, forcing all kinds of emotion to surface, some of which we would rather feel. The greater the storm, the greater the emotion that is sometimes released in us, particularly when the circumstances are out of our control.

Nations across the world have been facing a huge storm as they have struggled to cope with COVID-19 which has had and is still having a significant impact. As each country was put into a state of lockdown, many will have experienced a similar fear to that which the disciples experienced, even though historically epidemics and pandemics have raged. Fear is a human emotion and it creeps into hearts willingly and surreptitiously. Before, or when this occurs, we need to put our trust in God and to ask Him to help us and to take charge of our lives. Soon, when Haddington West Church re-opens, there may be fear in the hearts of some. Trust in God and ask for his loving presence.

Prayer: Living God, you are our best friend. In spite of this, we often do not place our trust in you when we should. Teach us to come to you willingly and to express our fears so that, through You, we may find the peace that passes all understanding. Amen.