



COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION
SUNDAY 20 JUNE 2021 – 3rd Sunday after Trinity

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.

Psalm 133

- 1 Behold how good and pleasant it is ♦
to dwell together in unity.
- 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, ♦
running down upon the beard,
- 3 Even on Aaron's beard, ♦
running down upon the collar of his clothing.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon ♦
running down upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the Lord has promised his blessing: ♦
even life for evermore.

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

6 As we work together with him,^[a] we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. **2** 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! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

¹¹We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. ¹²There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. ¹³In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus Stills a Storm

³⁵On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.' ³⁶And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸But 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?' ³⁹He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' ⁴¹And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

Reflection from Peter - Trinity 3, 20 June 2021

One of my earliest primary school memories is of my excitement when told the story of King Canute. I wasn't much interested in whether he succeeded or not: it was the sheer idea of being able to change something that was so obviously unchangeable - that was the thrill of it! Later, of course, we come to think of Canute as a sorry figure, caught in the delusions of power. In today's Gospel reading it is Jesus who does the impossible. Woken by the disciples in the midst of the storm he says, "Peace, be still" - and the winds and the waves obey him. We know this is not possible for humans. We cannot intervene in this way in the forces of nature. We can't stand before an erupting volcano and tell it to shut its mouth. In Mark's Gospel this is a key moment when expectations about Jesus change gear.

Only God, the creator of everything that is, has power over creation. Here Jesus shows that he is one with God: that the ability to heal, to teach, to encourage - and to still storms - all this is possible because Jesus is God among us. All too easily the routines, the worries and the joys of everyday life weigh upon us. Then, along comes this Gospel moment, this sudden change of gear - and we feel a rush of adrenalin as we see again that nothing is stuck, or hopeless, or irredeemable because God is with us. Then we can dare to let God hold us in stillness and peace - for nothing can make us afraid.