



## Team Parish of Christ the King St Aidan's, Brunton Park

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2022**  
**Eco Sunday**

This Sunday's readings both offer a chance to reflect on climate and creation, but perhaps especially in the wakes of storms Dudley and Eunice this week, I thought it would be appropriate to think about our Gospel reading as Jesus calms the storm, and see what it might have to say to the current climate crisis.

The image of a storm over deep waters is one of profound chaos in Jewish thought. So, the Psalmist, looking for language to express his trouble, cries out: 'Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck, I sink in miry depths, where there is no foothold.' (Ps 69). As the storm rages, the disciples are not only in the midst of the elements but also surrounded by the swirling forces of chaos and destruction. And as we read this passage in light of the climate crisis, two questions come to mind.

In our world today the storm of climate change, at heart, is surely the frenetic, relentless and often ruthless drive for ever greater wealth and ever more extraction. It's the clamour of a market that demands unending growth, and that can only grow at the expense of polluting the world and exploiting its poorest communities. This, surely the heart of the destruction and chaos that drives the physical storms of a shifting climate.

So my first question is, are we like the disciples, shouting in a panic, saying: 'Master, Master, we are perishing.' Or has this storm blown up so slowly, and we're so used to it's bluster, that we don't even see the danger of the wind and the waves? Are we so comfortable in this storm that we don't think to bother Jesus with the desperation of our prayers and our pleas? Are we asleep in the boat, and as much in need of waking as Jesus?

And then my second question comes as Jesus stills the storm. He rebukes the chaos, and there is calm. So what would such calm look like for us? Can we step away from the frenzy and activity of a materialistic framework, away from the constant cycle of accumulation, and re-discover rest. Jesus rebukes the swirling chaos of the wind and waves, and there is calm. What would that calm look like for us? What would it mean to find stillness within the culture and world we live in? Can we re-discover the power of rest, of calm and stillness, as Jesus calms the storm?

## **First Reading : Genesis 2.4b-9,15-25; Revelation 4**

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

The LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

'This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
this one shall be called Woman,  
for out of Man this one was taken.'

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

## **Gospel Reading: Luke 8.22-25**

One day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'

## **THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Mon** 7.30pm, Zoom: **Bible Study Group**

**Wed** 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**

**Fri** 5pm, Zoom (church code below): **Food for Thought**

**Sun 27<sup>th</sup>** 9.30am, Church: **Parish Eucharist Sunday Next before Lent**

Rev'd Ben Pullan Leading and Preaching (Gerard not in church) Readings from: Exodus 34.29-35 , 2 Corinthians 3.12 - 4.2 , Luke 9.28-36[37-43a]

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 12pm: **Lunch Group at the Rugby Club**

Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2pm: **Chat and Craft in the Community Room**

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 10am and 7.30pm: **Ash Wednesday Communion and Ashing**

Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar. 2pm: **Prayer and Praise in the Community Room**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Mar, 4pm: **'Penitence and Faith: a service to mark the beginning of Lent' including our Parish Choir at St Columba's**

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Mar, 7.30pm: **'An Adventure with God' at St Cuthbert's (weekly during Lent)**

Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> March, 12pm: **Lent Lunches (weekly during Lent), St Columba's on 10<sup>th</sup> Mar**

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Mar, 4pm: **Taize service in Church (weekly during Lent)**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 7:30pm: **Fundraiser Concert in church**

## **NOTICES**

**SUNDAY SERVICE** – today's live broadcast link is <https://bit.ly/EcoFamilyFeb22>

**LENT LIFTS** – if you would like to attend any of our Lent services, but are struggling to get to the venue, please let us know as lifts will be available.

**CHAT & CRAFT** – on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm. We are looking forward to welcoming anyone who would like to bring along their crafting and join in some chat.

**PRAYER AND PRAISE** – returns on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Perfect for those who prefer afternoon services in a relaxed atmosphere. Starting at 2pm in the community room, followed by refreshments. Please come along to this small gathering of friendly people who would very much like to welcome you.

**THANK YOU** – for everyone's support and generous donations at the fundraising event last weekend. We have donated £1000 to the Afghanistan Appeal.

**FACE MASKS** – as of Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March, wearing a mask in church will be at your own discretion. For those continuing to wear a mask, we suggest sitting at the back of church, behind those not wearing masks, and in our best ventilated area.

**COFFEE MORNING FUNDRAISER** – arranged by Susan – Tues 1<sup>st</sup> March at Great Park Community Centre. Along with cakes and other activities, coffee is available in the Shake Shack Cafe. All proceeds will go to the Great North Children's Hospital.

**WORLD DAY OR PRAYER** - All Saint's Gosforth are hosting a Deanery Service to mark the World Day of Prayer at 1.30pm on 4th March.

**NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** - the Cathedral will be hosting the National Cathedrals' annual conference between Sun 15 – Thur 19 May. They are looking for volunteers to commit to at least one 2-3 hour shift (and a briefing session in late April). To register your interest, please complete the online registration at <http://bttr.im/7u3kq> , or contact Lucy Cooke by phone on 0191 2321939 or at [lucy.cooke@newcastlecathedral.org.uk](mailto:lucy.cooke@newcastlecathedral.org.uk) or.

**WORLD DAY OR PRAYER** - All Saint's Gosforth are hosting a Deanery Service to mark the World Day of Prayer at 1.30pm on 4th March.

**LENT COURSE:** This year we're planning a Parish-wide Lent Course called: 'An Adventure with God: stories and thoughts on a life of prayer.' Each week we'll have a visiting speaker (including a Bishop, a Friar, and the leader of the Resource Church), who'll offer insights from their own journey of prayer before leading us in a time of prayer together. Wednesdays 7.30pm at St Cuthbert's, starting 9th March.

**TAIZE EVENING WORSHIP:** Sundays, 4pm from 13th March. During Lent we'll be offering a short evening service of Taize chant, scripture, silence and prayer. Do join us for a peaceful and reflective time to deepen your Lenten devotion.

**LENT LUNCHESES:** During Lent we'll be meeting ecumenically with churches across the parish to share in food and fellowship. Thursdays at 12pm, starting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> at St Columba's.

**PRAYER LIST:** If you know of someone (whether in the congregation or not) who would particularly appreciate prayer, and you have permission from them, please do let us know and we'll put their name on the list for our prayers.

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP** - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb - Genesis 1-11 The Flood. 28<sup>th</sup> Feb - Tower of Babel. Contact Ken Newitt for more details ([kmnewitt@outlook.com](mailto:kmnewitt@outlook.com)) or join us using Meeting ID: 881 6875 9104, Passcode: StABSG or <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88168759104?pwd=SFFWOVUzT1p2RXZ2dnBPbXZGMGxWdz09>

**ZOOM CODES** – all our Zoom sessions will use only the following details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOURtQT09>  
Meeting ID: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan

**CHURCH OPENING** – church is now open during the day, every day. Please come in at any time for some quiet time or prayer.

**DONATIONS** - to make a donation to St Aidan's, please use the following link: <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/8a599239-a9bd-4136-8b4b-1dcabb0a2c65>

### ***For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer***

**For the church** – Particularly for Diocesan office staff and diocesan advisers. Within our church we pray for readers Ken Newitt and Chris Sayers and Authorised Minister Bernie Troughton.

**For the world** – Particularly for tensions in Ukraine, and for our own national and political life. In our community for businesses on the Great Park.

**For those in particular need** - Gladys Johnston and Adrienne Tulip.

**For those who have died and those who grieve** – On their anniversaries: Cran Cowans, Doris Graham, Barbara McGovern, Tommy Parkin, Joan Brown, Susan Rennie, John Pargeter, Stuart Simon, Lesley Holmes, Anne Wood, Margaret Shaw, Gordon Wilson, Joyce Barker

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