



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

Sunday 13th August 2023
Trinity 10

It is the kind of comment you hear in any shopping mall:

'You go on ahead: I'll catch up with you later.' You pop into a shop or go to the toilet. I'm sure we have all said this to someone at one time or another. But in this case it was different. These were the words of Jesus and he was sending his disciples off across the Sea of Galilee in a boat. 'You go on ahead: I'll catch up with you later.'

They did what he said, but there must have been questions running through their minds, not least: Exactly how and when was Jesus going to catch up with them later?

It was a strange experience for those disciples that night: crowded together in a flimsy boat, in the dark with an adverse wind that defied all their straining efforts. It was a kind of time of pointless human effort, of chaos, when that combination of water and wind was at its most infuriating.

Jesus had gone up the mountain to pray. Matthew only mentions Jesus praying at really critical moments: here on this stormy night and in the Garden of Gethsemane just before his death. It is at moments such as these that Jesus draws strength from God, sheltering in the divine intimacy of the Father's love. But what is so critical on this dark, windy night? To put it simply: Jesus and his disciples are in danger. John the Baptist has just been killed by Herod in a gruesome, barbaric beheading. That is why Jesus immediately withdrew his disciples from the towns and villages and headed off to a deserted place. The story is about danger, about what to do when your back is up against the wall, of how to respond to adversity when the whole world is against you, about when you have next to nothing to hand to counter the forces of injustice and evil, the times when you need courage and the strength of faith. As the disciples' boat is buffeted by the wind, in the early hours of the morning, the disciples see Jesus walking on the water towards them. But we can't walk on water! The disciples, most of whom were experienced fishermen, knew this too. So little wonder that they were terrified at what they saw and cried out in fear.

It is not helpful at this point to try to figure out how Jesus walked on water. Nor dismiss this incident as an illusion on the part of the disciples. What Matthew is inviting us to do is to ask the question: Who walks on water? This, invites us to turn to scripture and there some answers beginning to emerge. In scripture, it is God who commands the sea and stills the storm. It is God alone who can walk on water, particularly when it is stormy? So on this storm tossed

night on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus reveals himself uniquely as the one endowed with the power of the creator God,
But, the story doesn't end there. The heart of this incident for Matthew is the interchange with Peter and his walking, sinking and rescue. It is about courage, faith and the assurance.

There are times in our life when we may feel overwhelmed, when we may be out of our depth, when we feel we are drowning under a multitude of problems. But, don't lose heart. For it is at times like these that Christ will draw us out of our turbulence and calm the storms of our life.

And as we near the end of our lives, we will have to step out from family and friends and walk through the waters of death. It is then that we are invited to fix our eyes on Jesus, to trust in Him, and to know that he will draw us safely back home to our Heavenly Father.

Romans 10.5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"' (that is, to bring Christ down) 'or "Who will descend into the abyss?"' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

'The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart'

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

Matthew 14.22-33

Immediately after feeding the crowd with the five loaves and two fish, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But

immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

TODAY

9:30am: **Trinity 10:** Rev'd Canon Jean Skinner leads and preaches

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Sat 10am-12pm, Community Room – **Saturday Café**

Sun 20th 9:30am: **Trinity 11** – Rev'd Ben Pullan leads as Mr Ken Newitt preaches with readings from Genesis Genesis 45.1-15 and Matthew 15.21-28

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thurs 31st Aug 10:30am **Men's Group Summer Outing:** Newcastle Cathedral

Sun 3rd Sept 9:30am **St Aidan's Family Service with Bishop Mark**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live link: <https://bit.ly/10Trinity23>

60th ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHURCH BUILDING - on Sun 3rd Sept we will be celebrating St Aidan's Day which this year coincides with the 60th anniversary of our church building. There will be a 9.30am Family Service with Bishop Mark, followed by a variety of games both in and around the church and then a light buffet lunch in the Community Room with drinks and a special 60th anniversary cake. All are warmly invited to worship with us, to meet informally with Bishop Mark and to join in the celebrations on this special day.

REV'D GERARD RUNDELL ANNUAL LEAVE – Gerard will be on annual leave until Monday 28th August. If you need any help during this time, please contact Rev'd Ben Pullan or a Churchwarden.

MANOR HOUSE SUMMER FAYRE – will be held on Sat 19th August at 2pm. Please pop in and support our St Aidan's neighbours if you are able to.

SONGS OF PRAISE IS COMING TO JESMOND – on Monday 21st August at St George's Church from 18:30 – 21:30pm. All tickets are free of charge. To apply for tickets, please contact singwithus@ctvc.co.uk with your name, contact phone number and the number of tickets you'd like. Please be sure to include 'Songs of Praise Jesmond' in your subject header. Alternatively, you can call 07734 030 888 to book your tickets.

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

FOOD BANK – any items placed in the box at the back of church will be donated to Kenton Foodbank.

DONATIONS - to make a donation to St Aidan's, please use the following link

<https://givelittle.co/campaigns/8a599239-a9bd-4136-8b4b-1dcabb0a2c65>

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – Diocesan and Deanery Synods. Our Thursday groups and Men's group.

For the community – Manor House, Bowmont House and Melton House

For the world – all countries facing hardship and conflict. For our own national and political life

For those in need - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler, Alan Gregg, Martin Seaton, Sofiiia Karnaukh

For those who have died – Howard Cleeve and on their anniversaries: Cliff Searl, Dorothy Pyke, Bill Charlton, Dorothy Dunthorne, Margaret Hancock, Frances Walker

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