



The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale



Trinity 9

‘Church in the Home’

Edition 21

Sunday August 9th – Saturday August 15th

From the Vicarage

‘Daring to trust God’



I wonder if you can remember the last time you made a poor decision or failed at something? How did it make you feel?

Our reading from Matthew’s gospel is probably a familiar one to many of you. It’s the account of Peter sinking in the water whilst trying to emulate Jesus walking on the lake towards the boat which was carrying the disciples. Did Peter fail?

It was dark, the wind was against them and a storm raged all around.

These were the conditions into which Jesus invites Peter to step out of the comfort and relative security of the boat and to walk towards him on the surface of the water. Did he fail? The conditions on board must have been very challenging, in deed, life threatening, but Peter still chooses to step outside of what he knows, of what he has already experienced, of what the world says is the ‘safe’ place to be and heads towards Jesus into something new.

We all face ‘storms’ in our lives. They may be financial, relational, physical, mental or spiritual. They might appear when we least expect them. We might question why they are here, how long they will last and even if we will we survive them .. the world is certainly in one right now, but the message from this account of Peter’s response is that no matter what is taking place, the really important thing is to keep our eyes on Jesus and *not* on the storm. To look to him for our rescue. Peter sank and so many consider that as a failure on his part, but if it was then I think there were eleven others whose ‘failure’ could be considered greater but has gone unnoticed. Peter responded in faith to the call of Jesus to trust him and he did so. Peter was the only one who experienced the strong arms of Jesus rescuing him as he did so. Peter experienced something the others never did ... and it changed his life forever. Joe reminds us in our reflection that it’s all about Jesus – what he has done and what he can do.

Jesus is outside of the boat, in the storm and calling us to trust him.
I wonder what storm it is he is calling to you through?

Rev Dave



Love Divine All Loves Excelling
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPsxqQsnzJA>

Music from
 Terri

This hymn by Charles Wesley (1747) was my choice when I read the passage from the gospel of Matthew. There was fear in the disciples in the boat, imagine the waves in the high winds. Jesus, however, walked calmly toward them, showed them that in turmoil, faith would conquer fear. We can liken that storm to our world today. Cast your worries on the Lord and mercy and salvation are yours.

Love divine, all loves excelling,
 Joy of heav'n to earth come down:
 fix in us thy humble dwelling,
 all thy faithful mercies crown:
 Jesus, thou art all compassion,
 pure, unbounded love thou art;
 visit us with thy salvation,
 enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
 let us all thy life receive;
 suddenly return, and never,
 nevermore thy temples leave.
 Thee we would be always blessing,
 serve thee as thy hosts above,
 pray and praise thee without ceasing,
 glory in thy perfect love.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
 into ev'ry troubled breast;
 let us all in thee inherit,
 let us find the promised rest:
 take away the love of sinning;
 Alpha and Omega be;
 End of faith, as its Beginning,
 set our hearts at liberty

Finish, then, thy new creation;
 pure and spotless let us be:
 let us see thy great salvation
 perfectly restored in thee;
 changed from glory into glory,
 'til in heav'n we take our place,
 'til we cast our crowns before thee,
 lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Salvation belongs to our God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZcG8cSxDiU>
 A simple message here that fits well with the readings this week. Belief leads us to mercy and salvation. Praise and glory are his, but we the redeemed shall be strong, purposeful and together we will continue to spread his word. The Romans reading says "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved"
 Let us call on that name together, spread the word far and wide.

Salvation belongs to our God
 Who sits upon the throne
 And unto the Lamb
 Praise and glory
 Wisdom and thanks
 Honor and power and strength

And we the redeemed shall be strong
 In purpose and unity
 Declaring aloud
 Praise and glory
 Wisdom and thanks
 Honor and power and strength

Be to our God forever and ever
 Be to our God forever and ever
 Be to our God forever and ever, amen



This Weeks Bible Readings:
 1 Kings 19:9-18, Psalm 85:8-13,
 Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-33

Click on this site, type in the reading you want and then listen to David Suchet read it to you.
<https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/suchet/nivuk/Gen.1>

Reflection

REFLECTION

On some Sundays the lectionary readings set for us to hear are challenging because they are far from straightforward. This week they are challenging for a rather different reason. For the person charged with thinking what to say they can fairly be described as an embarrassment of riches. The problem is what to leave out. We have the wind, the earthquake, the fire, and the still small voice. We have Jesus walking on the water and Peter walking on the water and then beginning to sink. We have an important and more than usually accessible passage from Paul's letter to the Romans.

As I read the passages, read about them, thought, and prayed I felt led to invite you to think with me about Paul's contrast between righteousness based on law and righteousness based on faith. It is simple and easy to say: as Romans tells us; if we believe and say that Jesus is Lord and that God raised him from the dead we will be saved. There can't be many people reading or hearing this who are not completely familiar with the idea and I dare say that almost all of us believe with our heart and so are justified, as Paul puts it.

I suspect that many of us, including me, do not live our lives as if it were true. It doesn't fit with the world of which we are part. On Thursday the A level results will be available and the following Thursday we will know the GCSE results. I speak with a grandson who will be on edge next Thursday and a granddaughter who will be on edge a week later. Many of us who are well past school exams live our lives as if God will be judging us on what we have done. We are deeply resistant in practice to the notion that our standing with God rests on what Jesus has done and not on our own efforts.

Think about the society in which we live. There are huge differences in wealth and a very unequal distribution of power and influence. The media tell us every day in every way that some of us are a lot more important than others. The detail of how that is reflected changes from time to time. Money and prestige are linked more now to film stars and footballers than to aristocrats, but in the end none of it matters. Our standing in this world has nothing to do with our standing before God. I am applying to the 21st century Paul's point that there is *'no distinction between Jew and Greek.'*

The message of the Bible applies to churches as well as to the world. Archbishops and occasional attenders in the pews will be in exactly the same position. It is what Jesus has done that matters, and not what *they* have done. We may know or know of someone whom it seems fair to describe as a saint. For them also, in the end, all that will matter is their faith in Jesus and what He has done.

It is counter to human nature to accept that our standing with God doesn't in any way rest on what we have done or are doing. What I want to get over is that it is nonetheless true and that it is gloriously true. If it weren't true none of us would be able to stand in the presence of a holy God.

One reaction to the message that what matters is what Jesus has done is that it doesn't matter how we live our lives. I have only heard that from people who don't believe in Jesus. As believers, we will want to live our lives in keeping with what we know of Him. It will help rather than hinder if we are clear that we are not trying to earn our way into a relationship with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Joe Pilling



Prayers

Jennifer Fawcett



Let us pray for the church & the world & let us thank God for his goodness.

We give thanks today that we are able to gather again in faith, to worship as a church family. Time apart has been challenging, but we know that you are always the same Lord who we can turn to in difficult times. Fill us with your joy & the peace of your spirit & direct our hearts & minds to you.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYER

This week has seen the 150th anniversary of the British Red Cross. The British Red Cross has helped millions of people in the UK & around the world receive the support they need when a crisis strikes. We give thanks for the work of the volunteers who have tirelessly supported the Red Cross, helping people at the time of their greatest need.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Gracious God, bless the visitors who are staying in our dale this week. We pray that the beautiful scenery, peaceful places & endless fresh air will restore & refresh them during their holidays. We also pray for the local businesses & attractions who have been able to re-open by following the guidance to keep both staff & holiday makers safe at this time.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYER

We pray for our farmers, custodians of the countryside. This year's grass harvest has been safely gathered in & their attention now turns to preparing this year's crop of lambs for sale. There is still uncertainty regarding how this will take place. We pray for clarity regarding new safe systems resulting in fair prices for both sellers & buyers.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Heavenly Father, in a moment of quiet, we bring before you those in our benefice, who are unwell at this time, in mind, body or spirit. Give them courage & hope in their troubles & may they feel your healing presence & peace in their lives.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ

...This Sunday This Sunday This Sunday This Sunday This Sunday ...



Sunday August 9th Services at

Harddraw Communion 9am

Askrigg Communion 10:30am

Hawes Evening Prayer 2:30pm



Face Coverings From Saturday August 8th it will be a legal requirement for a face covering to be worn in a place of worship. As so many of you attended with one last week we hope that this will not be a barrier to our worship but a sign of our care for one another and those in our community.

Jam Jars



Free to a Good Home !

Mike and Hilary Reeves have a large quantity of clean Jam Jars ready for use for any keen jam maker who would like them.

If you're interested please contact them on 01969 666149

TV Radio

Worship on the BBC:

Tune into some of the services on TV and Radio.

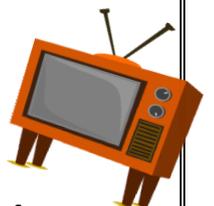
Sunday: Radio 4 Sunday Worship 8:10 – 8:50am 'The Cross as a symbol of Hope';



Sunday: 3:00 – 4:00pm Choral Evensong

Live from St Martin in the Fields with the choir of St Bartholomew the Great Kings College Cambridge

Wednesday: 3:30-4:30pm Choral Evensong Live from St Martin in the Fields with the BBC Singers



Sunday BBC1 'Songs of Praise' Rev Kate Bottley explores how Christian Reformers founded the National Trust 125 years ago.