

Service at home 23rd June 2024

Call to worship - Lord God, in a universe that seems so immense it is easy to feel small and insignificant. Yet we know that we are precious in your sight – unique individuals loved and blessed in so many ways.

We are in awe of the one who has created all things and we dedicate this time and all our days to your service.

STF 175 – Light of the world (Here I am to worship)

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,

opened my eyes, let me see

beauty that made this heart adore you,

hope of a life spent with you.

So here I am to worship,

here I am to bow down,

here I am to say that you're my God,

and you're altogether lovely,

altogether worthy,

altogether wonderful to me.

2 King of all days oh so highly exalted,

glorious in heaven above.

Humbly you came

to the earth you created,

all for love's sake became poor.

So here I am to worship ...

And I'll never know how much it cost

to see my sin upon that cross.

And I'll never know how much it cost

to see my sin upon that cross.

So here I am to worship ...

Tim Hughes

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Have you ever felt out of your depth? Or that something was too hard for you, too big a problem, or too difficult a task.

Scripture 1 Samuel 17:(1a,4-11, 19-23),32-49 - Read &/or listen to this link

[1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 19-23, 32-49 Reading \(youtube.com\)](#)

Hymn – Ye/all who would valiant be

All who would valiant be,
'Gainst all disaster,
Let them in constancy
Follow their Master,
There's no discouragement
Shall make them once relent,
The first avowed in tent
To be a pilgrim.

Those who beset them round
With dismal stories,
Do but themselves confound –
Their strength the more is.
No foe shall stay their might
Though they with giants fight:
They will make good the right
To be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord. Thou dost defend
Us with thy Spirit,
We know we at the end
Shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away,
We'll fear not what they say,
We'll labour night and day
To be a pilgrim.

Mark 4.35-41 – Jesus calms the storm. Read and then watch this clip if possible

[Mark 4 | Calming the Tempest | The Bible - YouTube](#)

Sermon – When we go on holiday, Steve and I always love a boat trip. Although having said that, I think it's mostly me who loves it and Steve graciously goes along with it. We recently went to Rhodes and had 2 boat trips. We were a bit disappointed with the first because it turned out to be such a big boat that there were 3 decks and unless you were on top deck, you were inside a cabin just looking out through a salty stained window. So when we went to visit the harbour, we booked ourself on another boat trip. This time it was one of those old fashioned galley ships and we got the full experience of the wind in our hair, *well obviously not so much the hair with Steve*, but you get the gist. Rolling with the waves and enjoying the view and the sea air etc.

But it's not always like that is it. I remember one trip when our children were young. We were down in Torquay and went on a boat trip from the harbour. After sailing a while and enjoying the sunshine, we turned the corner to enter the mouth of the river **Dart** and it changed completely. The waves were crashing right over the small boat, and we all jumped up and went for cover in the covered cabin at the front. All except my dad, who was always very stoic, and he stayed at the back, and our son who always copied him. Thankfully they were safe, but when we arrived in Dartmouth, our

first stop was to a clothes shop to buy them new clothes because they were absolutely soaked through to the skin.

When we were in Israel on holiday, we went on a boat trip on the sea of Galilee. It was like a mill pond at the time. They put the anchor down mid lake to show us how the fishermen would cast their nets. But it was then that we heard rumbling in the distance. The guide told us it could be artillery fire as they regularly experienced incoming shelling on a daily basis, but it could also be the sound of thunder and a storm on it's way because the lake is notorious for these huge storms seemingly from nowhere. It was hard to imagine either of those scenarios because we had not seen any of it.

We were shown the air-raid shelters in the hotel, and that was where we were to head if we heard the sirens going off, which was a little unnerving, and it was a surprise to us that they felt that vulnerable to attack at any time.

Then back to the boat scenario, I'd also heard about the fact that even though it is a calm sunny day on the sea of Galilee, a storm can blow up in a matter of seconds because it follows a narrow channel in the local topography where the wind and storm rushes in along that channel between the hills and is compressed as it is funnelled along.

Jesus would have been sat in the place of honour which is a little seat at the stern where a carpet and cushion were arranged, as was the custom, and the helmsman would have been a little way ahead of him, to have a good view of what was ahead.

It is interesting to know that the words Jesus used to calm the storm were the same words he used to address the demon possessed man in Mark 1:25.

Now, this is a great account of a miracle, but it's much more than that if we take it further and think what else it can represent, because it could represent the way we deal with all kinds of dangers and fears, if we think of it in the concept of the storms in our lives.

It's interesting to hear that the disciples went through rough times too, and not just when they were out on a boat. They went through all the same kind of trials that we go through. They would have known hardship, they would have known persecution, they would know what it was to be unfairly treated, they would have suffered illnesses and experienced the heart ache of loss. Their faith would have been tested over and over just as ours is today.

And their faith was tested there on this boat. The storm was raging. These were experienced fishermen, not just somebody like myself, on a bit of a jolly boat trip. They knew the area well, this is where they lived and where they worked all their lives. If they say this was a terrible storm, then it must have been an extraordinarily terrible storm, and their lives would most certainly have been in danger, if it were not for the fact that Jesus was with them. Jesus found it hard to conceive that after all the time He had spent with them, and after everything he had taught them, they were still afraid. This wouldn't have been the first storm they had seen him stop. There had

been many tragedies that He had overcome, like sickness and diseases, the death of Lazareth, He had walked on water, cast our evil spirits, turned water into wine.

Jesus wanted them to know that they had nothing to fear when He is with them. And He wants us to know that too. He is always with us, and no matter what storms we have to go through in life, He will be with us, He will never forsake us, and we can trust that nothing will ever snatch us from His hand.

Confession

Forgive us, Lord, for the times we forget that you have our back;
when we put our confidence in ourselves instead of you;
when we bury our heads in the sand, hoping it will all go away.
Forgive us for the times when we say empty words;
when we put our trust in the wrong things;
when we aren't ready to take on a challenge;
when we have to be nudged, rather than following willingly;
when we have war and not peace on our minds.

Thank You God that You forgive our past and our hesitations, doubts and inadequacies. You fill us with your confidence and make us whole. **Amen.**

Hymn – My hope is built on nothing less (Read, sing or listen)

[Cornerstone - Live | Hillsong Worship \(youtube.com\)](#)

Intercessions

Lord God, the Philistines gathered their forces, ready for battle.
Today, so many people are fighting around the world.
There's so much we'd like to do to help if we could. But you call us to serve you right where we are.
Like David, equip us with the right skills in the right place at the right time, and strengthen us to fight for truth wherever we are.

We pray for those who are in positions of authority, we pray they will make righteous decisions. We think of the up-coming elections. May Your will be done. Politics is such a huge debate, but when all is said and done, we ask you to give us a government who will rule in the fear of God. We pray they will be morally upright and not misuse their power or position. We pray they will have wisdom and teachable spirits and that they will show compassion, with a charitable heart for the poor and needy.

We pray for our family, our church family and all those we hold dear. May they know Your healing touch, may they know You as friend and Father. We ask for their salvation and may they come to know You more intimately every day.

Lord's prayer

Benediction ²⁴ “ “The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” ’ ” Numbers 6:24-26

