

# St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church, Kirkcaldy

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*Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021, Pentecost 4 (Trinity 3)*

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*Please print and bring this sheet with you if you are attending the service and wish to follow the readings and sing the hymns. (SPB refers to the Scottish Prayer Book Liturgy for those who follow this service)*

*Introit Hymn:* Lord of all hopefulness

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can destroy,  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day

*Welcome:* Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Collect for Purity:* **Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Gloria:* **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Collect:* O God our defender, storms rage about us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us all from unbelief; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

*Collect SPB:* O Lord, we beseech the mercifully to hear us: and grant that we, to whom thou hast given an hearty desire to pray, may by thy mighty aid be defended and comforted in all dangers and adversities; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*First reading:* Job 38. 1-11 (SPB 1 St Peter 5.5 )

*Second reading:* 2 Corinthians 6. 1-13

*Gradual hymn:* King of glory

1. King of glory, King of peace  
I will love Thee;  
and that love may never cease,  
I will move Thee.  
Thou hast granted my request,  
Thou hast heard me;  
Thou didst note my working breast,  
Thou hast spared me.

2. Wherefore with my utmost art  
I will sing Thee,  
and the cream of all my heart  
I will bring Thee.

Though my sins against me cried,  
Thou didst clear me;  
and alone, when they replied,  
Thou didst hear me.

3. Sev'n whole days, not one in sev'n,  
I will praise Thee;  
in my heart, though not in heav'n,  
I can raise Thee.  
Small it is, in this poor sort  
to enroll Thee:  
e'en eternity's too short  
to extol Thee.

*Gospel acclamation:* **Alleluia! Alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia.**

*Gospel:* Mark 4. 35-41 (St Luke 15.1)

*When gospel is announced:* **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

*At end:* Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel. **Praise to Christ our Lord.**

*Sermon:* *The Revd Canon Christine Fraser*

I came across this song, the lyrics of which I would like to share with you. Unfortunately I have not identified the composer.

The winds and the waves  
Shall obey my will, peace be still.  
Whether the wrath of the storm-tossed sea  
Or demons, or men, or whatever it be.  
No water can swallow the ship where lies  
The Master of ocean and earth and skies;  
They shall sweetly obey my will,  
Peace be still, peace be still.  
They all shall sweetly obey my will;  
Peace, peace be still.

For most, the sea conjures up delightful images. Some enjoy the serenity of a quiet walk on the shore or a cruise to a tropical island. Modern images of the sea are typically tame and inviting, lulling us into associating

the sea with a sense of tranquility. The sea can be described in an endless number of ways. It is refreshing, beautiful, and humbling.

Not so for Mark.

Mark's sea is not a place for romantic cruises on crystal blue waters. Mark's sea is where discipleship is challenged, where boundaries are impassable, where life hangs in the balance, and where evil lurks as a formidable foe.

Storms happen – even to the best, the smartest and the most prepared among us. Storms terrify us, knocking us around, threatening to destroy our stability and security. We don't know whether we can withstand them, and we are uncertain of how long they will last. At least, that's how a storm at sea would be for most of us.

That is how it was for the disciples. At the end of a long day of teaching, Jesus needs a break and initiates a trip across the Sea of Galilee. Although the water is usually calm, the wind coming over the surrounding mountains can suddenly raise a tumultuous storm. Even with Jesus on board, they still encountered tremendous gusts. There was no avoiding this storm. Even as they faithfully followed Jesus' instructions to cross the water to the other side, they were beaten by waves. Even though surrounded by other boats – the wind howled – lightning flashed – rain poured – thunder boomed, and the boat seemed to be sinking. The disciples were terrified that they would perish and Jesus was asleep – on a cushion no less! So, they cry out, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

It is then that Jesus calmed the sea with the words, "Peace, be still." An image captured so well in the lyrics of the song that I have just quoted.

We may have never crossed the Sea of Galilee, but we've been in that boat. This story is not just a story about a boat trip and stormy weather. It's a story about life – our life – our fear – our faith.

Times of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger have often been compared to stormy seas. They come upon us whether we like it or not. Life is like that. We can avoid some storms by watching the weather forecast and using some common sense. We can avoid some emotional, spiritual, financial, and social disasters by being wise and following God's instructions. But sometimes, bad things just happen – even while we're minding our own business, doing what's right, living out our Baptismal Covenant to the best of our ability, with God's help.

Sometimes, life places us in a boat and the storms begin to rage – the storms of pain and loss – the storms of rejection and failure – the storms of illness and death – the storms of pandemic and polar vortex – storms brought on by racial and political unrest. Whenever or however they arise, storms are about changing conditions. Life becomes overwhelming and out of control. The waves crash, the boat fills up, and we're struggling to stay afloat.

For more than a year, the storm of pandemic has taken us to uncharted waters. We have a desired destination but are not sure of where we will end up or when we will get there. The water is deep, and the new shore is a distant horizon. We long to trade in our lament for the psalmist's proclamation: "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!" Instead, we cry out in fear, "God, where are you? Do you not care that we are suffering?"

When the wind ceased and the waves became calm, Jesus questioned the disciples' fear and lack of faith. It is worth noting that Jesus never said, "There's nothing to be afraid of." The storm on the Sea of Galilee that night must have been extremely fearsome if seasoned fishermen doubted their own ability to keep the boat afloat. We often confuse the two phrases, but saying, "There's nothing to be afraid of," is quite different from saying, "Do not be afraid." The truth is that things that cause fear are very real. Isolation, pain, viruses, the loss of one's job, or loss of a relationship, illness, and death are real.

Like the disciples in our text, we are also challenged to rediscover our faith in God's word when we find ourselves in the midst of storms. The questions Jesus asked the disciples are the questions he continues to ask us: "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

As we grow in faith, we come to understand that the things that cause us despair do not have the last word. Yet, faith does not eliminate, change, or take us around the storms of our lives. Rather, faith takes us through the storms, reminding us that Jesus is there with us. We are reminded that the power of God is mightier than any wind that beats against us – that the love of God is deeper than any wave that threatens to drown us. Jesus

invites us to stay with him in the boat saying, “Let us go across to the other side, I won’t leave your side, I’ll journey with you.”

And let’s not forget that Jesus was not addressing only one disciple when he invited them on their boat trip. He addressed all twelve, and Mark tells us that other boats were with him. They were in community. If the past year has taught us anything, it is the importance of community. People have worked so hard to stay connected to their communities, even while apart.

Just as the disciples set off for the other shore with Jesus in the stern, we too, journey with our community, accompanied by the Master of ocean and earth and skies, who promises, “The winds and the waves shall obey my will, peace be still.”

After the hurricane that devastated New Orleans, when everything was razed to the ground and hope seemed lost. There, there was in the courtyard of the cathedral, still standing, a statue of Jesus with his arms outstretched. Trees and bushes lay all around, uprooted, devastated. But in the middle of all the mess, the storm and the devastation, Jesus still stood, arms outstretched, comforting, loving and caring.

Friends, when the storms of life toss us to and fro, may we be reminded that the Master of the winds and the waves is present in every storm and his response is always the same: “Peace! Be still!” Amen.

*Nicene Creed:*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one substance with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and  
was made human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in  
accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from  
the Father.  
Who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified.  
and has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

*Intercessions:*  
*Group*

*Composed and prayed on behalf of the congregation by a member of the Intercessors*

The Bidding for our prayers is “Father you hold our lives” and the response is safe in your hands – Father you hold our lives – and the response “safe in your hands”

Let us pray

Trusting in your love we pray for your church, you have called us to your service to save us and to keep us under your protection

Give your church the love which knows no barriers of race or culture and strengthen us with your trust that we may accomplish your work in the world. We pray for our College of Bishops, For Bishop Ian and for the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney and Bishop Anne.

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for St Michael Elie with St John Pittenweem and Steve Butler their priest.

Today our hearts thoughts and prayers are with those who have suffered from life's storms. Father God may they all know the strength of your endless love for them, in their darkest hours keep them from bitterness or despair, may your grace be upon them and affirm in them the assurance that you are always with them every step of the difficult journey ahead and that you will never leave their side.

**Father you hold our lives – safe in your hands**

Trusting in your authority we pray for all international discussions and negotiations, for all who give order to the world and for those who represent us in government, may they be men and women of integrity who keep their promises, may they be just and compassionate so that we may be led in ways of justice and peace, righteousness and mercy.

**Father you hold our lives – safe in your hands**

Trusting in your gentleness we pray for children and their parents, we ask you to bless all fathers, with wisdom, with patience, with courage and above all with love for their children.

We ask you to bless all children today – with openness to correction, with eagerness to learn and above all with love for their fathers.

We pray for all whom are fatherless today – surround them with good people who can teach, affirm and guide them and to love them with the love of a father.

**Father you hold our lives – safe in your hands**

Trusting in your mercy we pray for those who are ill and those who are recovering and for those who care for them. We remember Sheila Brown, June West, Richard Ouston and Margaret Galbraith.

We pray for those whose life on earth has ended and for all those who mourn their passing, we think of our parents who have gone before us and who we miss and we commend them all to your keeping in the sure and certain knowledge that Jesus Christ is the light of the world a light which no darkness can quench we remember before God those who have died and light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope

We remember:- William Chalmers, Mary Thorburn and Michael Page

You turn our darkness into light in your light shall, we see light

**Father you hold our lives – safe in your hands**

Trusting in your goodness we pray with thankfulness for all we have received and been enabled to share and as we go out into your world we remember that we are all special in your eyes, we pray that you may strengthen and use us, fashion us in your own image, send us to dare and to do great things for you, that all may know your love and your power

**Merciful father accept these prayers for the sake of you son our Saviour Jesus Christ Amen.**

Confession

*and Absolution:* God is love and we are God's children. There is no room for fear in love. We love because God loved us first. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

*Silence*

**God our Father, we confess to you  
and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ  
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do.**

**We are truly sorry.**

**Forgive us our sins,  
and deliver us from the power of evil.**

**For the sake of your Son who died for us,  
Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

(May) God, who is both power and love, forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Peace:* We meet in Christ's Name let us share his peace.

*The service continues in the **Green** Liturgy Booklet at Page 4. There will be no offertory collection during the service, please place your offertory in the dish at the door before or after the service.*

*Offertory hymn:* Brother, sister let me serve you

1. Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God in heaven  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.
6. Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

*Communion Prayer: (For those at home)*

**God of infinite mercy. We thank you for Jesus our Saviour who feeds his people and gives them eternal life. Though we cannot consume the gifts of bread and wine we thank you that we do receive Christ's saving presence, the forgiveness of sins and all other benefits of his passion. Grant that we may continue for ever in the risen and ascended life of our Saviour. Amen. (This prayer is said during the online Provincial service).**

*The Lord's Prayer:* **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Communion hymn:* Make me a channel of your peace

1. Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.  
*Oh, Master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.*
2. Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness, only light

And where there's sadness, ever joy.  
*Oh, Master grant that I may never seek...*

3. Make me a channel of your peace  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
In giving to all men that we receive  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

*Sentence:* We give thanks to you Lord, for you are gracious  
**And your mercy endures forever**

*Concluding Prayer:* **Almighty God, guide and protect your people who share in this sacred mystery, and keep us always in your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Blessing:* The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

*Dismissal:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Recessional hymn:* Alleluia sing to Jesus

1. Alleluia, sing to Jesus!  
his the sceptre, his the throne:  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone.  
Hear the songs of holy Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood:  
'Jesus out of every nation  
has redeemed us by his blood!'
2. Alleluia! not as orphans  
are we left in sorrow now:  
Alleluia! he is near us;  
faith believes, but knows not how.  
Though the cloud from sight received him  
whom the angels now adore,  
shall our hearts forget his promise,  
'I am with you evermore'?
3. Alleluia! bread of heaven,  
here on earth our food, our stay:  
Alleluia! here the sinful  
come to you from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
earth's redeemer, plead for me,  
where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.
4. Alleluia! King eternal,  
you, the Lord of lords we own;  
Alleluia! born of Mary,  
earth your footstool, heaven your throne:  
you, within the veil have entered,  
robed in flesh, our great high priest;  
yours the blood and yours the body,  
in our eucharistic feast.