

to him about some questionable lab results from his blood tests. Let me assure you that Steve is a fictional character. But he represents the way many feel today. His story embodies many of the fears facing people in our world. Unemployment is up as the furlough scheme is coming to an end. The economy is down and what about health and family issues. Sometimes it seems that we are lost in a sea of troubles. That's where we find the disciples: literally lost at sea. Things had been going good for the disciples. Jesus was attracting huge crowds. He had just fed over 5,000 of them miraculously as we heard from Revd Mark last Sunday. Jesus was so popular that the crowds tried to make him king. But that wasn't God's plan, so Jesus had to slip away by night. The disciples began to make their way across the Sea of Galilee. Jesus wasn't with them and a storm came up on the sea. They fought against the wind and waves and rowed with all their might. Even the experienced fishermen probably felt that they would lose their battle against the elements. Then they saw Jesus. He was walking on the water and coming toward them. Matthew tells us that they were terrified. 'It's a ghost!' I mean it's not every day that you see someone walking on water. They may not have even realized that it was Jesus. But Jesus identified himself and told them, 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.' Then you get the most amazing act of faith when Peter says, 'Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water' Jesus simply says, 'Come'. I am sure you know what happened next in the story. What can this event teach us as we deal with our sea of troubles? First of all this event shows us that Jesus has the power to rise above our troubles. The miracle here was that Jesus walked on the waters of a stormy sea. A regular human would just sink and in a storm and probably drown. But Jesus had the power to stand in the midst of the storm and still be above the troubles. In the same way Jesus can walk across the stormy sea of our troubles. He can be there with us and not sink. Sometimes it seems like we will drown but Jesus will not. There are no troubles that we face that Jesus cannot handle. I think this is where most people's faith runs into the wall of their doubts. Sometimes people get into a mess and they say, "How could Jesus ever get me out of this mess?" But Jesus can. It doesn't matter how bad of a mess you get into, Jesus can get you out of it. Now sometimes he chooses not to get you out of it but rather to get you through it. But he is able to do that because he has the power to walk across the sea of our trouble like you or I would cross the street. What reason do we have to not fear? The same reason Jesus gave the disciple, "It is I." It's Jesus who is in the storm with us. He promised to be with us until the end of the age. We have every reason not to fear because Jesus is with us!

So we learn from this event that Jesus has power over the storms of life and that we should not fear. We also learn to invite Jesus into the boat. You notice how things happened in the story. Matthew points out that when they set out for sea Jesus was not with them. The disciples are tossed about and only when Jesus was in the boat that the winds died down. The problem is that most people try to navigate the storms of life without Jesus in the boat. Don't drown in a sea of troubles. Jesus can walk across the waves of the storm of life. He has power over the elements of nature and all the powers that threaten you. He promised to be there for us no matter what. He was there in the middle of an ocean when the disciples needed him. So don't surrender to fear. Ask Jesus into your life. If you are not a Christian then accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. If you are a believer then don't try to forge through the storms alone. Invite him into your boat. Jesus was there for the disciples. He is here for you now. Invite Jesus into the boat of your life and he will see you through the storms of life to your destination. Amen.

#### HYMN - SHINE JESUS, SHINE

**LORD, THE LIGHT OF YOUR LOVE** is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,  
Set us free by the truth You now bring us,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth Your word,  
Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,  
From the shadows into Your radiance;  
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness  
So our faces display Your likeness.  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

**T**HE peace of God, which passeth 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 amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



This Sunday our liturgy is again based on Evening Prayer. The service continues on-line, and for those who do not have the technology, by telephone. (Just call **01902 906536**) The service is also available on YouTube (**St Andrew's Church Bentley**) or the church/diocesan webpages ([www.standrewsbentley.org.uk](http://www.standrewsbentley.org.uk) or by searching [www.fcofesd.org.uk](http://www.fcofesd.org.uk)). We are at last able to hold some nearly normal services. Our first Morning Service last week was attended by a few, but more than expected. It will be some time before we can get back to our usual numbers. Messy Church will not meet over the Summer but will recommence in September when, according to the latest information all children will be going back to school. Our 6pm service has seen a remarkable return of about 30 regular attendees. Our next Holy Communion service will be held on Sunday 30th August at both the 10am and 6pm services.

#### HYMN - HE KNOWS MY NAME

##### I HAVE A MAKER

He formed my heart,  
Before even time began  
My life was in his hands

He knows my name  
He knows my every thought,  
He sees each tear that falls  
And hears me when I call

I have a father,  
He calls me his own  
He'll never leave me,  
No matter where I go

He knows my name  
He knows my every thought  
He sees each tear that falls  
And hears me when I call

He knows your name  
He knows your every thought  
He sees your tears that fall  
And hears you when you call  
He hears me when I call  
He hears us when we call.

#### LET US PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank you that you know our name and you simply remind us to 'Come'. Help us, Lord in our unbelief. Help us also to stand up for you in those opportunities we have to share a little of your love to those around us. Thank you, Lord for hearing our prayers and for being with us in our boat. Amen.

#### HYMN - STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS

**STAND UP! STAND UP FOR JESUS,**  
Ye soldiers of the cross!  
Lift high His royal banner,  
It must not suffer loss.  
From victory unto victory  
His army He shall lead,  
Till every foe is vanquished,  
And Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus!  
The trumpet-call obey;  
Forth to the mighty conflict  
In this His glorious day!  
Ye that are His, now serve Him  
Against unnumbered foes;  
Let courage rise with danger,  
And strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus!  
Stand in His strength alone;  
The arm of flesh will fail you,  
Ye dare not trust your own.  
Put on the gospel armour,  
Each piece put on with prayer;  
Where duty calls, or danger,  
Be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus!  
The strife will not be long;  
This day the noise of battle,  
The next the victor's song.  
To him that overcometh  
A crown of life shall be;  
He with the King of glory  
Shall reign eternally.

#### EVENING PRAYER

**W**HEN the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive.  
*Ezek. 18:27*

I will arise, and go to my father, and I will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.  
*Luke 15:18,19*

**D**EARLY beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things

which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying together:

**A**LMIGHTY and most merciful Father, We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws, We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, And we have done those things which we ought not to have done, And there is no health in us: But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders; Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults, Restore thou them that are penitent, According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord: And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. *Amen.*

**A**LMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live; He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**O**UR Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that 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.*

O Lord, open thou our lips.  
*And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.*  
O God, make speed to save us.  
*O Lord, make haste to help us.*  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;  
*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.*  
Praise ye the Lord.  
*The Lord's Name be praised.*

**Reading : Matthew 14:22-33**

#### **Jesus Walks on the Water**

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>23</sup> After he

had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup> and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

<sup>25</sup> Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup> But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."  
<sup>28</sup> "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."  
<sup>29</sup> "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

<sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

<sup>32</sup> And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. <sup>33</sup> Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

#### **THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD - THANKS BE TO GOD.**

##### **NUNC DIMITTIS - Luke 2:29**

**L**ORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace : according to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation,  
Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. *Amen.*

##### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I**BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth :  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried, He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. *Amen.*

The Lord be with you.  
*And with thy spirit.*  
Let us pray.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.  
*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.  
*And grant us thy salvation.*  
O Lord, save the Queen.  
*And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.*  
Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.  
*And make thy chosen people joyful.*  
O Lord, save thy people.  
*And bless thine inheritance.*  
Give us peace in our time, O Lord.  
*Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.*  
O God, make clean our hearts within us.  
*And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.*

##### **COLLECT - NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**G**RANT to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as be rightful; that we, who cannot do anything that is good without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**O**GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

**L**IGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

##### **HYMN - WHEN I FEEL THE TOUCH**

###### **WHEN I FEEL THE TOUCH**

Of Your hand upon my life,  
It causes me to sing a song  
That I love You, Lord.  
So from deep within  
My spirit singeth unto Thee,  
You are my King, You are my God,  
And I love You, Lord.  
**(Repeat)**

**O**LORD our heavenly Father, high and mighty, King of kings, Lord of lords, the only Ruler of princes, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth: Most heartily we beseech thee with thy favour to behold our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen ELIZABETH; and all the Royal Family: Endue them with thy Holy Spirit; enrich them with thy heavenly grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring them to thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting God, who alone workest great marvels: Send down upon our Bishops and Clergy, and all Congregations committed to their charge, the healthful

Spirit of thy grace; and that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

**A**LMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

**T**HE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

##### **HYMN - HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE**

###### **HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US,**

How vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss –  
The Father turns His face away,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,  
My sin upon His shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life –  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer;  
But this I know with all my heart –  
His wounds have paid my ransom.

##### **JUST A BRIEF WORD (Full sermon is online)**

Let me tell you about Steve. Steve had a good job and a nice home and a nice family. But times being what they are his company fell on bad times. They had to let some people go and Steve was one of them. Because he lost his job, he couldn't keep up his mortgage payments and now the mortgage company wants his house. The financial problems were such that it has caused tensions in his marriage and to top it all, his 14 year old daughter is pregnant. Steve felt like he was about to drown in his troubles then he got a call from his Doctor. He had recently been to the Doctors to get a physical check-up and now the doctor wants to talk