

Pentecost #4

6-20-2021

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor

Vicar Karen Pugatch

Celebrate (Introduction)

“Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! Now we are in the storm, the boat almost swamped; but Jesus is here now, and when we call him, he will calm the storm. Even the wind and waves listen to him as they would to their creator. We also listen to him and are called to believe in the power of God’s word in him, a power greater than all that we fear.”

We come together in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening Hymn: [“When Morning Gilds the Skies”](#)

Psalm: Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures for ever!

² Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble

³ and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

²³ Some went down to the sea in ships,
doing business on the great waters;

²⁴ they saw the deeds of the Lord,
his wondrous works in the deep.

²⁵ For he commanded, and raised the stormy wind,
which lifted up the waves of the sea.

²⁶ They mounted up to heaven, they went down to the depths;
their courage melted away in their evil plight;

²⁷ they reeled and staggered like drunken men,
and were at their wits’ end.

²⁸ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress;

²⁹ he made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.

³⁰ Then they were glad because they had quiet,
and he brought them to their desired haven.

³¹ Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to the sons of men!

³² Let them extol him in the congregation of the people,
and praise him in the assembly of the elders.”

Hymn of Praise: [“This Is My Father’s World”](#)

Prayer of the Day

“O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.”

1st Reading: [Job 38:1-11](#)

2nd Reading: [2 Corinthians 6:1-13](#)

The Gospel: Mark 4:35-41

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+4%3A35-41&version=NRSV>

Hymn of the Day: [“My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less”](#)

The Message: ([Video Link](#))

For many people, one of the highlights, if not the highlight, of local TV news programs is the weather forecast. These forecasts in one way or another determine how we plan and live the immediate future activities of our lives. Needless to say if a snow storm is forecasted we make that necessary trip to the grocery store. If stormy weather is forecasted during the warm weather months we plan to cancel or move our activities indoors. Even with the most modern weather forecast instruments and computers the weather can be very unpredictable. Sudden changes can and do occur. Mild weather disturbances can without much warning turn into violent storms causing tragic results.

This is often the case over bodies of water. Living in Fell’s Point for many years I became keenly aware of this with the Patapsco River. There have been many tragic occurrences on that body of water caused by sudden and violent changes in the weather. I had a neighbor who was a mate on a shuttle boat who almost lost his life to one of these storms. The unpredictable nature of storms and even the weather is a reality to be taken seriously. But, on the other hand, to limit our lives only to sunny, fair days is to not live life to its fullest and we may miss much of what life, both good and bad, has to offer. Vincent Van Gogh made this observation, “The fishermen know that the sea is dangerous and the storms terrible, but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore.”

Being fishermen, Jesus’ disciples fall into this category of which Van Gogh related. This became very evident in our gospel lesson this morning. The story takes place on a relatively small body of water, the Lake of Gennesaret or the Sea of Galilee. Upon the end of a most perfect day, Jesus and His disciples decided to take a boat across the lake. Since several of His disciples had worked on this lake as fishermen, they were well aware of the dangers which could be present while sailing this body of water. The geography and topography of the

shoreline led to the creation of sudden fierce storms with particularly high wind and rough sea events.

But, it had been such a beautiful day so what's the chance of a storm occurring during that relatively short journey? Therefore, they began their sail. Jesus was tired for had been teaching all day. As soon as he boarded the boat he laid down upon a cushion in the stern of the boat and quickly fell asleep.

When they reached the middle of the lake; suddenly, out of nowhere, a fierce windstorm swept across the water hitting the rather small boat. The waves washed over the bow of the boat threatening to swamp and sink it. Surely they would all drown. Alarmed and almost in a panic, the disciples wakened Jesus. "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Interestingly, Jesus must have been a very sound sleeper not to have awakened by the storm itself.

Without any delay Jesus rebuked the wind and commanded the sea to quiet down – "peace and be still." Jesus command was heeded for the winds and stormy sea suddenly became quiet and calm as if nothing had ever happened. The disciples no longer were in a state of fear and they too calmed down. From a life threatening wind storm and an angry sea to perfect calm and peace; from danger to safety in an instant. At one command Jesus overcame the danger with just three words, "Peace, be still." The disciples must have been in a state of shock and awe over what they just experienced.

Then Jesus turned to His disciples, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" Jesus' questions turned the experience into a lesson in faith. If there is a strong faith in God which affirms His love for us, then it must follow that His protecting arms will gather us into His care and save us. The act of Jesus and His questions told the disciples, and tell us, that through faith all things are possible. This is the promise. God includes the faithful in His saving grace. Faith has no limits. Faith conquers even the worse fear which can be imagined. Faith knows that God never leaves us alone.

But the calming of the seas goes beyond the ultimate reality of how we will face death for it speaks to how we face life. It speaks to all those turmoil's of life which seem to grab us and take control. These lead us into the storms of our own making and the storms perpetrated upon us. Recently we all have experienced the sudden and drastic storm which changed all of our lives – the pandemic. To add to the drastic devastation of this storm has been the storm of a society and nation in turmoil. These storms may only have heightened the day to day storms which as individuals we may be experiencing, loss of job, hurt by relationships, being cheated and bullied, lied to, injustice, and inequality as well of on-going health concerns To say the least there are many storms which we experience in life. The question is how do we meet and answer them? So often we just lash out in order to try to overtake the turmoil. We may even blame the situation on someone else just like the disciples initially tried to do. "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" When this happens the storm only gets worse. To play the

blame game misdirects us in finding the real solutions. The turmoil continues to devastate our own lives as well as the life of others.

To say the least there has been little happiness through it all. Life can be so caught up in the storms of living day to day that we fail to find the joy and happiness in the sunny days throughout all of the gloom. Just recently a 30 year old singer on America's Got Talent brought clarity to the storms of life. For the past several years Jane or Nightbirde (her professional name) fought and overcame a deadly cancer while having her husband leave her. On stage she revealed that she had just been diagnosed with cancer in three parts of her body. While on stage her smiling, glowing face was contrary to the storms of life she went through and was facing. With her infectious smile she told the judges and audience, "You can't wait until life isn't hard anymore before you decide to be happy." Off stage she related she was given 2% chance of survival. To this she added 2% is better than 0%. In doing a little follow-up she has a deep faith which had helped her through the storms of her life. It is this faith which leads her to her attitude about happiness and which is an example for all of us during the storms of life. She is the example of hope which is so important to us during this time.

Jane is a reminder that within the storms of life we must remember that God is right there waiting to be called upon. He is there waiting for our faith in his love and forgiveness to take over. He is there ready to give the command "Peace be still." He is there waiting for a faith which says "Time Out", there is another way to settle the turmoil. There is another way to answer the storm which is threatening to sink us. This is the faith which brings peace, calm, and happiness to our lives so that we may see the way of love and forgiveness. What follows is the peace and calm which conquers all hatred, bitterness, and revenge. It is a peace and calm which will lead us to God's ultimate kingdom of love. This is our way to overcome the storms and be able to realize the sunny side of life.

Today we celebrate Father's Day. Father's Day is the time to reflect upon how important our fathers are or were in our lives. For many of us we have had the experience of having the faith in knowing that our father was always there to give us the comfort, support, and protection during times when we were in need. Fatherhood is looked upon to be that steady and certain counselor for us throughout our lives. Therefore, today we have the opportunity to say thank you. It is through our understanding and relationship with our father that we begin to understand the nature of God as our Father. We can begin to understand God's love and we can begin to understand the faith of knowing that God is always there for us no matter what turmoil and storms we may face.

Anthem: ["You'll Never Walk Alone"](#)

Offering*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))

We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

The Prayer

Loving Father of all creation, we come to you with grateful hearts for all the gifts you have given us. We are especially thankful for every experience that we live both good and bad. Let us see that our purpose is to love each other throughout all the moments in which you have given us to live. We are extremely grateful for the witness which Jane has given as she struggles in her life to live and to bring happiness to others through the gift of music. Today we are mindful of our earthly fathers who have helped us throughout our growing experience and our lifetime during which we have shared together. Give us the ability and will to honor them in all that we do and say.

We pray for all who need your comforting and healing presence especially Bob and Pat Allen, Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, the Cronin family, the Elshafei family, the Fultz family, the Johnson Family, Robert Karner, Donna Mayhew, Wendy Neumann, Elise Oliver, Peter Olsen, David Otto, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Linda Rigby, Colin Shea, Jerry Shea, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family,, Della, Yongyin Sun, Esther and Buck Trautwein, Linda Williamson, Wyatt Lee Wolf, Pastor Jack,
We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you;
The Lord lift up His presence upon you and give you peace. Amen

And now my brothers and sisters
Live on knowing God's love,
The joy of living this life of love,
And the peace which only comes through the power of His presence within you.
So live on in Love, Joy, Peace, and Power.

Closing Hymn: ["Faith of Our Fathers"](#)

Announcements

Services will be outdoors unless inclement weather conditions force us indoors. Face masks and social distancing outdoors are not required. An email will be sent late Saturday afternoons stating whether indoors or outdoors

Happy Father's Day !!!!!

Sunday, June 27, 6:00-8:00 – Jerusalem Mill Outdoor Concert, Kingsville, MD Features popular Celtic Baritone, . Charlie Zahn, \$15.00 –seniors \$10.00 Bring your own lawn chair.

*Offering to be sent to:

Bob Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive
Columbia Hills
Ellicott City, MD 21043

<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291