

Shellrock Benefice Service Sheet for 9th , August 9nd 2020

Collect

Gracious father, revive your church in our day, and make her holy strong and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Readings

Genesis 37, 1-4, 12-28 ; Psalm 105 , 1-6 and 16-22; Psalm 85, 8-13 romans 10 5-15; Matt 14, 22-33

A Reflection

The gospel passage set for today is filled with vivid imagery. The picture of the disciples sent on their own across the sea and of Jesus walking on water to save them and to calm the waters is one that has given comfort, encouragement and challenge to Christians over the centuries. And it has been used to remind us that Jesus often calls us into uncharted waters.

What are the dimensions in this story that bring to life God's call and also His assurance.

- First of all, we have the importance of prayer. We are reminded that Jesus went off on his own and spent time in prayer, even in the midst of very uncertain situations.
- We are told of the potential danger, of the very choppy seas and the fear that this generated in the disciples. And yet Jesus still sent them out into it.
- We are given an image of the disciples who, because of their fear, could not recognise Jesus when he came to them in ways they never expected, that is, walking on water.

At the present time in a very uncertain situation which brings fear, we too are called, but maybe because of our fear are unable to recognise that Jesus IS near and is there to support us. *Do not be afraid* is a phrase frequently seen and heard in the Bible. We hear these words at the birth of Jesus, and also in the account of His resurrection. This morning's gospel account gives us the assurance that Jesus does reach out to us, and is there with us in the midst of all the troubled waters and dangers of life.

Suggestions for prayer

For granting us patience during the time when we have been unable to meet

For thanks that we are able to see each other again and speak face to face at services

For guidance from the Holy Spirit as we move ahead and plan for the future

For thanks for all who help and sustain us in the church and community

For those who have had a relative or a friend who has died

For all people known to us who are ill at this time, especially those in the benefice

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

Blessing

The love of God enfold us, the power of Christ protect us, and the leading of the Spirit guide us. And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen