

# Salford Methodist Circuit



**Calming The Storms Of Life - 20th June 2021**

**Pat Wilson**

Good morning and welcome to worship.

Well, today many families and individuals will celebrate those who have had a fathering role in their lives and for the way they have helped and have been an inspiration to all of us.

We also know that our Father God is always there for us in difficult times and days of celebration.

## **Call To Worship**

*Let us bring all we are,  
all we have been  
and all we will be  
as we offer our Worship to God.*

Hymn: Father we love you we worship and adore you

*Father, we love you,  
we worship and adore you:  
glorify your name  
in all the earth.*

*Glorify your name,  
glorify your name,  
glorify your name,  
in all the earth.*

*Jesus, we love you,  
we worship and adore you:  
glorify your name  
in all the earth.*

*Glorify your name...*

*Spirit, we love you,  
we worship and adore you:  
glorify your name  
in all the earth.*

*Glorify your name...*



## Let us pray:

Loving God

We bring our thanks to you for all you do for us.

We praise you and adore you,

For being in control but not controlling

For being in the storms and beyond them

You are a God of love, peace and power.

You are our God.

We praise you Father, Son and Holy Spirit

When we too quickly mistake silence for indifference

Forgive us and help us.

When we abandon others in their storm and watch safely from the shore

Forgive us and help us.

When we lose faith because life gets tough

Forgive us and help us.

God of power and peace when the storm is raging,

You are there.

In the roar of the waves, in the sound of the wind and in the silence you are there.

We praise you thank you and worship you.

In Jesus name, Amen.

## 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.*

## Hymn: In Christ Alone.

*In Christ alone my hope is found,*

*he is my light, my strength, my song;*

*this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,*

*firm through the fiercest drought and storm.*

*What heights of love, what depths of peace,*

*when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!*

# Salford Methodist Circuit



*My Comforter, my All in All,  
here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,  
fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
scorned by the ones he came to save:  
till on that cross as Jesus died,  
the wrath of God was satisfied  
for every sin on him was laid;  
here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground his body lay,  
light of the world by darkness slain:  
then bursting forth in glorious Day  
up from the grave he rose again!  
And as he stands in victory,  
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
for I am his and he is mine -  
bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
this is the power of Christ in me;  
from life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
can ever pluck me from his hand;  
till he returns or calls me home,  
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!*

As we yet again enter another time of restrictions, we are acutely aware that many people will remain anxious. Some are lonely, others anxious about leaving their homes. At the start of the pandemic people checked up on their neighbours and made phone calls to cheer each other up.

It might be just four weeks but to many this will feel like an eternity.

We are indeed fortunate that through our scientists and our NHS we have the vaccines and the four weeks should see more and more vaccinated.

In the readings this morning we hear that same anxiety for those in difficult circumstances.

We hear of their cries to the Lord in their distress and he brought them out of their distress.



Likewise the Disciples called out to Jesus in their distress and He calmed the waters.

We are urged to take everything to God in prayer to leave our fears and anxiety with our God and feel His eternal love and His peace.

We need to still remember our neighbours, our community, our family and our friends in our prayers and in our actions over the coming weeks to try to ease their anxiety too.

## **Bible Reading: Psalm 107 : 1-3, 23-32**

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good-  
his love endures forever.  
Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—  
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,  
those he gathered from the lands,  
from east and west, from north and south.  
Some went out on the sea in ships;  
they were merchants on the mighty waters.  
They saw the works of the Lord,  
his wonderful deeds in the deep.  
For he spoke and stirred up a tempest  
that lifted high the waves.  
They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths;  
in their peril their courage melted away.  
They reeled and staggered like drunkards;  
they were at their wits' end.  
Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,  
and he brought them out of their distress.  
He stilled the storm to a whisper;  
the waves of the sea were hushed.  
They were glad when it grew calm,  
and he guided them to their desired haven.  
Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love  
and his wonderful deeds for mankind.  
Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people  
and praise him in the council of the elders.*

## **Mark 4 : 35-41**

### ***Jesus Calms the Storm***

*That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly*

# Salford Methodist Circuit



*swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"*

*He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.*

*He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"*

*They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"*

## **Hymn: Jesus Calls Us! O'er The Tumult**

*Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult  
of our life's wild restless sea,  
day by day his voice is sounding,  
saying: 'Christian, follow me.'*

*As of old apostles heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred,  
leaving all for his dear sake.*

*Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying: 'Christian, love me more.'*

*In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures:  
'Christian, love me more than these.'*

*Jesus calls us! By your mercies,  
Saviour, may we hear your call,  
give our hearts to your obedience,  
serve and love you best of all.*

This week we explore being heard in the storms of our lives. Both the readings this morning seems familiar during this Pandemic.

The reading from the Psalms speaks of God's steadfast love as we read that they cried to the Lord in their trouble, illness storms and more besides. Whenever human resources failed, they cried to God, and he rescued them.

# Salford Methodist Circuit



The Gospel reading finds Jesus leaving the crowds after a full day of teaching and gets into the boat for a rest. The Sea of Galilee is surrounded by hills except for a little dip in the valley at one end which acted as a bit of a funnel and the water can go from calm to choppy in just a matter of minutes. I can understand the fear of the Disciples only too well.

Some years ago, when our boys were teenagers, we all went to Croatia with my Dad, and the boys wanted to go on a boat trip, so with the good weather, it was beautiful out there, the sea was just like a millpond, and so we went off onto a beautiful island. We explored the island, and we found a chapel, went into the chapel which was very very beautiful, and a lady acknowledged us going in, although she couldn't speak our language she was smiling and welcoming.

And so, we made our way back down to the harbour and we decided to have a cup of coffee before we went on the boat back home to where we were staying.

Well, the boat in front of us sailed out of the harbour with no problems whatsoever, then we came to get to the harbour, and right out the harbour we suddenly found our boat going up in the air and slapping down in the waves, so much so that it was really quite frightening. They sent out the lifejackets for everybody, but not quite enough. A young lady from a foreign country was sitting there and she strapped her baby right round her body and one of the girls opposite who was German said to me "when the boat goes down, we'll help the lady."

Well, I was hoping and praying that the boat didn't go down and we just sat down on the ropes of the bottom of the boat and there we sat in pain and worry. And then all of a sudden it went calm and when we landed it was just like nothing had ever happened, it was just like a millpond.

It was a journey and a half, but we came to shore, we were delighted to be in that one place. Nobody welcomed us back because they didn't know we had been in danger, so it was just one of those things.

We just couldn't fully understand how anxious the Disciples could be, but I do now understand just how frightened they must have been in those times when Jesus was lay in the boat - just relaxing having a little... little snooze - and they wondered if he really didn't want to know them.

The Disciples questioned whether Jesus really cared about the danger. Jesus questioned them asking: "Why are you afraid, have you still have no faith?" Jesus stilled the water, and all was well. The Disciples were calm again and came to land, safe and sound just as we had.

As for my trauma, I asked my Dad 'was he frightened?', and his reply surprised me. He said "No, I kept my eye on the captain and saw his skill, and just put all my trust in him."



There and then I learned to keep my eye on my captain, when I encounter difficulties in my life, I learn to put my trust in Him, my redeemer. And so, as we are coming out of the pandemic to a certain extent, then I think too, we need to put our trust and our faith in God. We need to help each other, and we need to show each other compassion and feeling for all the things they have gone through, just as we have gone through, but sometimes we need to be there for other people - as the hymn goes to 'hold the Christ light for them in the darkness of their lives.' And so that is our calling - it's our calling to be good neighbours, good friends and to help each other along the way.

Amen.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Heavenly Father, we are not altogether convinced that darkness is a thing of the past. Many people in this world of ours feel their world is one of fear. We find ourselves remaining in this pandemic.

Many are suffering: many are bereavement, many have illness, money worries, about family, trouble at work or not having work, doubt, and weariness.

We worry about the world issues: war, poverty, climate change and disease. As Christians we should be doing so much more than we are. Loving God, we rejoice that you are with us in our troubles, you know us all and you love us – always.

We pray for our world, a world in need – in need of love and grace, hope and peace.

We pray that you would come alongside us and all those for whom we pray, that you would show us Jesus, the light of the world, the one who came to give us life and health and peace.

Even in our trouble and pain, even in our loss, we know that Jesus is with us.

Hear us as in a moment of silence we pray for those in darkness of whatever kind – so let us pray that they may see and know the light of Christ:

*[Silence]*

The Lord is our light and our salvation. Hear our prayers, Lord, spoken and unspoken for Jesus' sake.

Enfold us Lord in your peace. Amen



## Hymn: Just as I am

*Just as I am, without one plea  
but that you died to set me free,  
and at your bidding, 'Come to me!'  
O Lamb of God, I come!*

*Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fighting within and fears without,  
O Lamb of God, I come!*

*Just as I am, you will receive,  
will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:  
because your promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come!*

*Just as I am - your love unknown  
has broken every barrier down -  
now to be yours, yes, yours alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come!*

*Just as I am, of that free love  
the breadth, length, depth and height to prove,  
here for a time and then above,  
O Lamb of God, I come!*

And so, as we go out into the coming week, let us pray:

Loving God as we go into a new week may we know your peace and hold the Christ light to those in dark places.  
Amen

CCL: 30925

Father, We Love You - Donna Adkins

Words and Music: © 1976 CCCMMusic / Maranatha! Music,

Administered by Song Solutions CopyCare, 14 Horsted Square. Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1QG.  
[www.songsolutions.org](http://www.songsolutions.org)

In Christ Alone - Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

Words and Music: © 2001, Thankyou Music. Administered by worshiptogether.com Songs, excluding UK & Europe.

administered by Kingswaysongs, a division of David C Cook [tym@kingsway.co.uk](mailto:tym@kingsway.co.uk) Performed by Preston Methodist Voices, used with permission

Jesus Calls Us! O'er The Tumult - Cecil Frances Alexander  
Performed By Preston Methodist Voices



# Salford **Methodist** Circuit



Just As I Am - Charlotte Elliott adapted by Jubilate Hymns (alt.)

Adaptation: © Administered by The Jubilate Group, 4 Thorne Park Road, Torquay TQ2 6RX  
copyrightmanager@jubilate.co.uk

Performed By Preston Methodist Voices