

Gettysburg United Methodist Church

November 4, 2020

Psalm 15 (NRSV)

A Psalm of David.

- 1 *O Lord, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?*
- 2 *Those who walk blamelessly, and do what
is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;*
- 3 *who do not slander with their tongue,
and do no evil to their friends,
nor take up a reproach against their
neighbors;*
- 4 *in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
but who honor those who fear the Lord;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;*
- 5 *who do not lend money at interest,
and do not take a bribe against the
innocent.*

*Those who do these things shall never be
moved.*

Meditation

Read Mark 4:35-41

Sometimes life is stormy. This year has been unusually tempestuous. We're facing a pandemic, racial injustice and civil unrest, a fiercely-contested election, a near-record number of hurricanes and tropical storms, and an unprecedented number of wildfires on the west coast. There's been very little 'calm weather' this year—it's been one storm after another. And sometimes we face our own personal storms in addition to the storms we face as a society.

The disciples faced a literal storm in Mark 4:35-41. They were together in a boat crossing the Sea of Galilee when a severe storm arose. The wind and the

waves were so high that their boat was being swamped (and remember that some of them were experienced fishermen). Jesus was asleep in the stern of the boat. In desperation, the disciples awakened him. Instantly he calmed the wind and stilled the sea, and they proceeded safely to the other side.

Jesus was able to calm the storm on the Sea of Galilee, and he is also able to calm our souls in the face of the storms of life. What can we learn from the disciples' experience?



It's good to know that all of us encounter storms in our lives. Sometimes we think we're the only ones who face difficulties and struggles. Even if we realize that others have similar problems, we still tend to focus exclusively on our own situation. It helps to remember that the turmoil we face is not unique to us. Life hasn't singled us out for tribulation—everyone struggles and endures turmoil in life. Other people have faced what we face, and God has brought them through it. We're all in the same boat.

It's good to be in the same boat with Jesus, especially when there's a storm. Only Jesus is able to calm the winds and quiet the sea. He is able to bring peace to our souls in the midst of turmoil, and is able to address the root causes of our concerns. It's

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Jesus is our peace.

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our choice, of course, to get in the boat with Jesus in the first place. All are invited, yet all have a choice to accept or reject the invitation. Even when we're in the boat, there are times we have to ask him for help (as the disciples did). He is the good shepherd, and is always willing to walk by our side and bring us healing and peace.

It's good to be in the boat with other disciples. We think we can go it alone—it's just "me and Jesus". But we need each other's support and encouragement. From the time of the apostles a boat has been a symbol for the church. The mast is in the shape of a cross, the sides of the boat protect against wind and storm as we are carried safely to heaven on the other side of the sea. We master the storms of life much better when we're side by side than when we're alone.

It's good to remember who's in charge. After the storm was gone, the disciples asked one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and sea obey him?" The answer, of course, is that Jesus is the Son of God, God made flesh come to dwell among us. God created the wind and the waves, so of course God can control them. When we face pandemics and injustice and all the other problems of life, we remember that God is still on his throne. He is able to bend creation to his will, even as he gives us freedom to choose. He has a plan (even if we can't see it), and he will deliver us from all evil—even from death itself.

Learn the lessons of Jesus and the storm. Make sure you're in the boat with Jesus and all of God's people, and don't be afraid to ask him for help. Above all, remember who's really in charge.

Pastor Rick

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we turn to you in times of turmoil and trouble. Remind us that we are never alone as we face the storms of life, for your grace is always

more than sufficient for our need. Enable us to support one another in the storm, and bring us safely through the tempest.

Help us to see the pain and anguish of those who endure the ravages of life's storms. Make us instruments of healing and peace in their lives. Teach us to invite others to join us in the boat as we rely upon you to conquer the wind and the waves.

Guide our nation and our world through our current time of trial. Heal those who are sick, comfort those who grieve, bless those who work for healing and wholeness. Give us strength to work together for freedom and justice for all peoples, for this we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCCAP Thanksgiving Bags

REVISED LIST!

We will be supporting SCCAP again this year with Thanksgiving Bags. The bags are located in the gathering area of the church.

We have received a revised list of items from SCCAP. We apologize for any inconvenience or confusion this may cause. The revised list is: 1 can sweet potatoes, 1 or 2 jars turkey gravy, 2 cans green beans, 2 cans corn, 1 box stuffing mix, 2 cans mixed fruit, 1 box instant potatoes. 1 jar applesauce, 1 can pumpkin pie mix OR 1 can fruit filling (your preference), 1 box pie crust mix, 1 can evaporated milk, and \$3.00 enclosed in an envelope which will be used to purchase rolls.

(The items included in the above list that were added to the previous list are: 1 jar apple sauce, 1 can of pumpkin pie mix OR 1 can fruit filling, 1 box pie crust mix, and 1 can evaporated milk.)

Again, we apologize for the changes to the list, and thank you for your faithfulness in helping others.

The bags should be brought back with your purchases no later than Nov. 15.

Jesus calms the storm.

Church Conference

Our annual Church Conference will be held at the conclusion of our worship service (around 11:30 am) on Sunday, November 8. We hope to be able to hold the Church Conference in combined in-person and Zoom formats if possible. If you desire a link for the Zoom format please email the church office to request one. All members of the church are encouraged to attend and vote. Church Conference elects officers for 2021, sets the pastor's 2021 compensation, and receives various reports.

Crisis Hotlines and Helplines

During these trying times, it's good to be aware of some of the positive resources available in our community. Many people are under extraordinary stress because of the ongoing situation. Please feel free to share this information with others as you feel appropriate.

CONTACT Helpline: (800) 932-4616

Wellspring Behavioral Health Helpline (Philhaven):
(800) 932-0359

TrueNorth Crisis Line: (866) 325-0339

Substance Abuse Hotline: (800) 662-4357

Domestic Violence Hotline: (800) 799-7233

Adams-Hanover Crisis Information Referral Hotline:
(717) 632-4900

Weekly Prayer Concerns

To add someone to this prayer list, please call the church office.

This week's list (as of 11/3/2020) is:

Joyce Dye
Rodney Truscott
Dale Shade—recovering from surgery
Penny Daugherty
Scott Bowers
Rochelle Lutz
Imogene Hunt's brother
Tom Kellam
Sharon Brown (cataract surgery)

Members in Assisted Living / Skilled Care Homes:

Edith Bulman (SpiriTust Lutheran, York);
Kermit Carlson (Paramount, Fayetteville);
Shirley Hammond (Morning Glory, Littlestown);
Missy Legay (Moul Home, York); Bob Reed (Lorien, Mt Airy, MD); Peggy Reynolds (Quincy-cottage), Waynesboro); Gloria Swingler (Country Meadows-apartment), Mechanicsburg

Members with Limited Mobility:

Butch Carter, Betty Cook, Joyce Dye, Pearl Keckler, Raymond Koenig, Chuck Lutz, Ruth Anna Polley, Wilma Schaible, Betty Schulteis, June Spencer, Virginia White

Thanksgiving Dinner

Our annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Tuesday, November 17 as a take-out meal.

The dinner will be prepared and available for pickup at the Sterner Building in the Rec Park in Gettysburg. Pickup will begin at 5:00. As always, plenty of help will be needed to prepare and serve the meal. Tickets (250 total) are required and are available through the church office at a cost of \$1 per adult.

Sign-up sheets will be available at the church in the near future for those who are able to help, or you may call Dale Shade at (717) 359-4626 to volunteer. We will follow CDC protocols for masks and social distancing.

Kennie's Market has generously donated 250 plastic grocery bags, so donations of additional grocery bags are no longer needed. We appreciate everyone who has donated bags so far.

HYMN

Stand By Me

Charles Albert Tindley

1. When the storms of life are raging,
stand by me (stand by me);
when the storms of life are raging,
stand by me (stand by me).

When the world is tossing me
like a ship upon the sea,
thou who rulest wind and water,
Stand by me (stand by me).

2 In the midst of tribulation,
stand by me (stand by me);
in the midst of tribulation,
stand by me (stand by me).
When the host of hell assail,
and my strength begins to fail,
thou who never lost a battle,
stand by me (stand by me).

3 In the midst of faults and failures,
stand by me (stand by me);
in the midst of faults and failures,
stand by me (stand by me).

When I do the best I can,
and my friends misunderstand,
thou who knowest all about me,
stand by me (stand by me).

4 In the midst of persecution,
stand by me (stand by me);
in the midst of persecution,
stand by me (stand by me).
When my foes in battle array
undertake to stop my way,
thou who savèd Paul and Silas,
stand by me (stand by me).

5 When I'm growing old and feeble,
stand by me (stand by me);
when I'm growing old and feeble,
stand by me (stand by me).
When my life becomes a burden,
and I'm nearing chilly Jordan,
O thou Lily of the Valley,
stand by me (stand by me).

Charles Albert Tindley was born in MD in 1851. His father was a slave, but his mother was free. In his youth he moved to Philadelphia and worked for a while as the janitor at Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church. He studied for the ministry, and was ordained in the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1902 he returned as Pastor to the church he had once served as janitor. During his pastorate, the church grew to a membership of over 7,000, and (over his protests) it was renamed the Tindley Temple Methodist Church in his honor .

Stand By Me is also known as *When the Storms of Life Are Raging*. The hymn was published in 1905 along with several of Tindley's other hymns. It speaks of our ability to endure hardship and struggle, of Jesus' help as we face the stormy tribulations of this world, and of our faith that Jesus will bring us safely through. It may be found as number 512 in *The United Methodist Hymnal*.

We greatly appreciate your continued faithful donations to GUMC during this time of change and crisis. Your faithfulness has enabled us to continue to pay all of our expenses, and we are very grateful for your continued generosity.

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers for Sunday, Nov. 8 are presented by Jim and Marilyn Schwillle to the Glory of God.

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