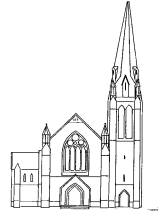




THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND NORTH PARISH CHURCH, GIRVAN Ayrshire.



**Interim Moderator - Dr James Anderson
Locum - Glenn Ronald**

January 2021 Newsletter

Dear friends, Jesus could do anything He wanted, and we just need to believe this too. He makes it clear throughout His parables. One of the most famous was Jesus calming the storm. A terrible storm broke out when Jesus was in a boat with His disciples, crossing to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was sleeping at the time, and His disciples wanted Him to save them as they thought they were going to drown. Jesus was perfectly calm, and He rebuked His disciples asking why they had so little faith, and why they were so fearful. The wind and waves were immediately calmed, and the disciples were amazed that even the wind and waves obeyed Him.

Should the disciples have been so amazed? They surely must have been aware of what Jesus was capable of. Where was their faith? Jesus depended on His disciples, and at times they let Him down. He needed their support, and at times it was not there. Jesus was preparing His disciples for what lay ahead for them. After Jesus died on the Cross, had risen, and returned to His Father in heaven, it was His disciples who would have to replace Him to spread the Gospel message to others, bringing more people to Jesus. So, their lack of faith then was a little worrying.

The disciples however were a work in progress, just as we are a work in progress. Our faith, I am sure, does not start strong but gets stronger during our lives. This is due to the influence our families have on our faith, those Christian friends who are around us, the books that we read, and how we lead our lives today and tomorrow.

What I love about this parable is the calmness of Jesus throughout these events, despite the storm which was going on around Him on the Sea of Galilee. He knew everything would be fine, and the disciples would also be fine if they just had faith. This parable tells us that having faith is not a straightforward thing to have. It is something we all have to work at, and eventually that faith will come.

All of us encounter storms in life, some minor ones and a few major ones. Having a faith is the best way to deal with these storms. The disciples should have possessed a stronger faith. It only dawned on them afterwards that Jesus had these miraculous powers. It would have been so much better if they had realised this from the start.

Time and time again we are asked to call on our faith to help us deal with the problems we regularly face in life. If we are ever unaware of what Jesus can do for us, all we need to do is to look at Jesus' parables to realise what can be achieved.

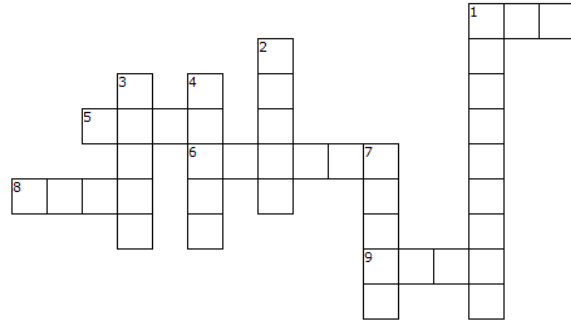
It is so much more difficult to get through life if we do not have a faith. The wonderful thing is that it is never too late to develop one. However, that process can only start from within. Even if your parents had a faith, your friends had a faith, and you regularly read the Bible and go to church, it is only you who can make that change.

As we welcomed Jesus' birth on Christmas Day, and His impact on our world, our faith comforts us. In such a difficult year we must use this happy event to share His Gospel message with others. This is a time for us to come together, forgetting what divides us, and celebrating what we all have in common. Hopefully, our faith, and the newly discovered vaccine, will make next year one which fills us with optimism.

Best wishes, Glenn.

Crossword Puzzle

Jesus Calms a Storm



ACROSS

1. A period of twenty-four hours
5. A body of water that is surrounded by land
6. To have a feeling of fear
8. A relatively small craft which travels on water
9. A raised movement of water rolling across the surface of the sea

DOWN

1. The original followers of Jesus
2. A violent weather condition with strong winds and heavy rain
3. A high degree of trust or confidence in someone
4. To be calm, without much activity
7. To die by being under water and unable to breathe

PEACE	STORM	DAY	DROWN	AFRAID
DISCIPLES	LAKE	BOAT	WAVE	FAITH



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Children's Worship Bulletin

Who's in Your Boat?

Mark 4:35-41

Word Search Puzzle

A F R A I D J T E E Q E L A J
 K T D Y Z E T U F Q Z F Z W I
 S T I L L N L Q A S I C G O D
 E V E N I N G W I N D B A H W
 C D H Y W G L W T O W J E L K
 U L H C A D H O H B A W E P M
 S B E I V V H K D E T A M M S
 H I J W E G I E T Y E W G E H
 I L V H S J O A P O R N L Y S
 O D Q C H E O W M V I P G Q I
 N D R L C B V R I P I U T D L
 Y L K O R H O A E C H G O K E
 N J N T W T A E S R E Q T L N
 H F V W S N L I E H A P U X C
 Y J E S U S D I U T D L A K E

CUSHION	CALM	LAKE	WOKE	WAVES
SLEEPING	STORM	AFRAID	WATER	WIND
DISCIPLES	BOAT	JESUS	DROWN	FAITH
SILENCE	STILL	EVENING	OBEY	HEAD

Your Church Name Here
Anytown, USA

Coloring Page

Word Jumble



Jesus Calms the Storm

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Unscramble each word and then place the numbered letters in the numbered boxes at the bottom to reveal the answer.



BAOT
2

DOWRN
4 3

WEAVS
1

CMLA
5

When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!"

Mark 4:39a (NLT)

JESUS CALMS A
1 2 3 4 5

PUZZLE CLUES

1. Jesus and his disciples got in a _____.
2. The disciples were afraid that they were going to _____.
3. Jesus spoke to the wind and the _____.
4. After Jesus spoke, the sea became _____.

Answer: There was a fierce _____ on the sea.

Check your answers in Mark 4:35-41 (NIV)

The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!"

Mark 4:41 (NLT)