



SUNDAY IN HOME WORSHIP

Sunday 29th March 2020

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**Technologically connect with those you have planned to*

Mark 4:35-41

Prayers in response

In Christ Alone

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Announcements

Prayers of petition

Psalm 93

Hear, grasp & live God's word

Prayers in response

Pastoral reflection

He Will Hold Me Fast

A resource from

GRANGE BAPTIST CHURCH

MARK 4:35-41

³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ 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?" ³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. ⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" ⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

PRAY IN RESPONSE

We have just heard God speaking to us through his word, so let's speak back!

- Praise Jesus for his sovereign power and control even over creation
- Praise him, our God and Rescuer!
- Thank him for the peace he can bring to his troubled followers
- Express your awe of him and the authority of his words
- Bring any fears you have at this time to our Almighty Jesus
- Ask for a deepening faith through the chaotic waters of Coronavirus
- Confess any sins this passage reveals

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!
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 ev'ry 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 pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' Name!

Let angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him Lord of all!

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe,

On this terrestrial ball,

To Him all majesty ascribe,

And crown Him Lord of all!

To Him all majesty ascribe,

And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,

Ye ransomed from the fall,

Hail Him Who saves you by His grace,

And crown Him Lord of all!

Hail Him Who saves you by His grace,

And crown Him Lord of all!

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng

We at His feet may fall!

We'll join the everlasting song,

And crown Him Lord of all!

We'll join the everlasting song,

And crown Him Lord of all!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks for your patience and understanding as we are working through these new challenges resulting from Coronavirus. If you have any questions about church life at this time please get in contact directly with Luke or Ben. Stay tuned for the email coming in the next day or two that will inform you of any further developments we've made and direct you to any new resources.

If you can think of any important announcements that would be worth noting here for next week, please let Luke or Ben know. If you have pressing prayer or praise points, please let us know about those also. We can add those into the prayers of petition for next Sunday.

PRAYERS OF PETITION

Since God is sovereign and pleased to work through the prayers of his people, let's bring our requests to him. You might like to share prayer points if you are spending this time with others today.

- Pray for the UK which is now in lockdown (for the governing authorities there, for Daniel, Brooke, and Rosie Barden and for Arnold Road Evangelical Church where Daniel serves)
- Pray for our country (for wisdom for the federal and state authorities as they make decisions seeking to save many lives from COVID-19, for Scott Morrison and Anastasia Palaszczuk)
- Pray for other churches you know (for wisdom for elders, and for peace to the entire church community)
- Pray for Grange Baptist Church (for those you are technologically joining with this morning, for Luke & Ben who need your prayers, for parents and children who might be facing challenges ahead with schooling, for workers who are feeling uneasy about their job security, for protection from COVID-19 for our members and loved ones, for business owners, for Hannah & Amy and the babies they are carrying, for our members working in the medical profession, for those struggling with loneliness)
- Pray for faithfulness in our witness to Christ at this time as we consider using creative means of evangelisation we might not have before
- Pray for the lost (for those living in fear and hopelessness, for those who are ill with Coronavirus to realise their greater sickness of sin and to cry out to Christ for mercy and peace)

PSALM 93

¹ The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty;
the LORD is robed in majesty and is armed with strength.
The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.

² Your throne was established long ago;
you are from all eternity.

³ The seas have lifted up, O LORD,
the seas have lifted up their voice;
the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.

⁴ Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea—
the LORD on high is mighty.

⁵ Your statutes stand firm;
holiness adorns your house for endless days, O LORD.

HEAR, GRASP & LIVE GOD'S WORD

As we begin another week with COVID-19 impacting our lives, it's unlikely that we have begun to make friends with it. If anything, the reality of this virus has probably only hit home more, with frustrations and anxieties growing as life continues to change. Though we might be feeling well in physical health, we may be starting to realise just how much this is affecting us in other ways. So, let's turn to God's word to us in Psalm 93 and listen in to what he is saying to us here.

HEAR GOD'S WORD

Re-read Psalm 93 together.

- Who are we singing/praying to throughout Psalm 93?
- Consider the benefits of committing this psalm to memory.

GRASP GOD'S WORD

PSALM 93:1-2

The LORD is King and the world rests firm on his rule

- Here we are getting a look at a King!
- Notice all the royal language (reigns, robed, throne)
- Human rulers wear robes to give the appearance of majesty, but notice that the LORD is robed in majesty itself! (Look at how he is armed too)
- What do we learn about his throne? ('throne' referring to his rule)
- There are five lines in verses 1 & 2 and all of them speak of the LORD except for the line sandwiched in the middle. What comforting truth do we find there about the world on account of the LORD's kingly rule?

PSALM 93:3

But there are pounding waves of chaos

- Here we are getting a look at the scary forces of chaos in the world
- Who are we still talking to about these terrifying waves?
- Notice how all of a sudden we have shifted from having had our eyes on the LORD, to now having them put on the pounding waves of chaos
- Notice the repetition of the lifting up of the seas. What might this convey?

- Notice that the seas have a voice; they shout in defiance against the rule of the LORD and they seek to shake the world he keeps secure

PSALM 93:4

But the LORD on high is mightier!

- Here we are having our eyes shifted from the waves, back to our God
- Notice the repetition again. For every rising wave in verse 3, the LORD on high is mightier in verse 4!
- The poetic imagery certainly sends a message. Imagine a churning sea of deadly waves, tossing to and fro, thundering and lifting up their voice in powerful roars... but the LORD on high is mightier!

PSALM 93:5

Trust in this righteous King

- Here we end on a statement of faith regarding God's righteousness
- Notice, then, that when the waves of chaos are crashing, God's statutes remain reliable and his house remains holy for ever
- Consider what this tells us about our God: that he is perfectly good in his character, trustworthy in his word, holy in his dwelling (he is righteous)

In summary, there are real waves of chaos in this world (like COVID-19) and God doesn't deny that fact in his word at all. Instead, he lovingly helps us to know and feel that reality in the churning waves that rise up and up in this psalm. But he will not leave us in that worried state. He comforts us and stirs up faith in us. He does this by presenting himself as the supreme King under whose rule the world rests firm. So trust in him! He is the righteous King who is mighty over the waves of chaos!

Keep in mind that the LORD doesn't *really* wear a robe or armoury, and he doesn't *really* sit on a throne—he's spirit; infinite and eternal. Psalm 93 is poetic picture language. The original singers would have never guessed that there would come a time when this King, the LORD, would *actually* be walking this world of chaos having taken on humanity, that he would *actually* be present in the middle of stormy seas, *actually* calming the pounding waves with his mighty word. But of course, that's exactly what happened, as we read earlier in Mark 4:35-41. Can you now understand why the disciples were even more terrified after Jesus calmed the waves? (see verse 41).

Want to see and know how our God is the King who is mighty over the deadly forces of chaos in this world? Look to Jesus in the boat. Look to Jesus walking on stormy waters. Look to Jesus who bore the curse of deadly chaos on the cross, and who triumphed over it by his resurrection from the grave!

LIVE GOD'S WORD

We can respond to God's word in our living in the following ways:

- Know your God in Christ (sovereign, majestic, strong, eternal, almighty, powerful, righteous, trustworthy)
- Pray Psalm 93 this week when the waves are pounding
- Keep looking to Jesus and trusting in him
- Pray for the deepening faith this psalm is here to stir up

PRAY IN RESPONSE

Pray to God in response to his word

PASTORAL REFLECTION

Listen to the pastoral reflection for this week by going to grangebaptist.org.au or by playing the CD that has been provided to you

HE WILL HOLD ME FAST

When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

He will hold me fast

He will hold me fast

For my Saviour loves me so

He will hold me fast

Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

Chorus

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When he comes at last

Chorus

