



Remember .. Trust .. and Reach out to Him.
23rd August 2026 Oseias Da Silva
Launceston Area Methodist Circuit

**This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use at home.
We pray that it helps you spend some time with God, knowing that
other people are sharing in worship too.**

Call to Worship

Come to the One who is always holding out his hands to us,
who is always ready to welcome us,
who is always longing to embrace us.

**Let's come together to God our Father
and celebrate his goodness. Amen**

Hymn: Morning Broken (HP 635)

Prayers of Adoration

We give glory to your Holy name,
director of our hopes and dreams.
With our lips we express adoration,
rejoicing in your wonderful acts.
Your mighty deeds work all our trials
to your purposes.
In our hearts, we praise and adore our glorious King.
Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Lord God,
forgive us for wanting to be better than others.
Forgive us for seeking or showing favouritism
and putting others down;
for wanting what others have
and being jealous of those who have more;
for selfish resentment towards those who have gained success.

Forgive us for fuelling unrest with our words or actions
and for letting others do our dirty work for us to deflect blame.
Lord God, we are sorry.
Grant us your wisdom in thought, word, and deed.
Help us live in the knowledge that we are all equal
in your eyes.
Lord God, forgive us. **Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

We proclaim the name of Jesus.
Because of Jesus Christ, we have no more debts.
By accepting his love and believing in his death and resurrection,
we are set free from the shackles of sin.
We are forgiven and free to live and love.
Amen.

Hymn: All Creatures of our God and King (HP 329)

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14: 22-33

Sermon

There are moments in life when everything seems calm, and then suddenly the wind changes. The disciples knew this experience very well. They had been with Jesus, witnessed his ministry, and then Jesus told them to get into the boat and go ahead of him.

As they crossed the lake, a storm arose. The boat was being battered by the waves, and Jesus was not with them physically. In the middle of the storm, they saw someone walking on the water. They were terrified.

But Jesus said:

“Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

These words speak directly into many of the storms we face in our own lives. The message of these passages is not that God's people will never experience storms. Rather, it is that **God is faithful in the middle of the storm.**

I want to reflect on three things today.

1. Remember what God has done

Psalm 105 begins with a call to remember:

“Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.”

The psalmist knows something important about faith: **we need to remember.**

When life is difficult, we can easily forget God's faithfulness. We remember the problem but forget the times God has helped us. We remember the disappointment but forget the times God opened a door. We remember the storm but forget that God has carried us through storms before.

Psalm 105 tells the story of God's faithfulness to his people. It reminds them of God's covenant, his promises and his actions throughout their history.

The passage remembers Joseph. He was imprisoned, but God did not abandon him. Eventually Joseph was lifted from prison and given responsibility and authority.

The lesson is simple: **God's presence is not always obvious in the moment, but God's faithfulness is always at work.**

Perhaps there are times when we need to stop and look back.

Where has God helped you?

When have you experienced God's provision?

When did you think there was no way forward, but somehow a way appeared?

Remembering is an important spiritual discipline. When we remember God's faithfulness in the past, we find courage to trust God with our future.

2. Jesus comes to us in the storm

Matthew tells us that the disciples were struggling against the wind and the waves.

Jesus could have prevented the storm. Instead, he allowed the disciples to experience it.

This is one of the difficult truths of Christian faith: **following Jesus does not mean that we will never experience storms.**

Sometimes we may think, “If God is with me, why am I going through this?”

But the presence of a storm does not mean the absence of God.

The disciples were frightened, but Jesus came towards them.

And Jesus said: **“Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”**

Notice that Jesus does not first calm the storm. He first speaks to the disciples. His presence comes before the calm.

There are times when God changes our circumstances. But there are also times when God gives us strength to face circumstances that do not immediately change.

The promise of Jesus is not, “You will never have a storm.”
The promise is, “I will be with you in the storm.”

Perhaps someone today is facing a storm. It might be a storm of uncertainty, grief, loneliness, family difficulty, financial pressure or fear about the future.

Jesus still speaks: **“Take courage. It is I. Don’t be afraid.”**

3. Keep your eyes on Jesus

Peter gives us one of the most memorable moments in the Gospels.

He sees Jesus walking on the water and says:

“Lord, if it’s you, tell me to come to you on the water.”

Jesus says one word: **“Come.”**

Peter steps out of the boat.

For a moment, he does something extraordinary. He walks on the water towards Jesus.

But then Peter notices the wind.

He becomes afraid.

He takes his eyes away from Jesus and focuses on the storm.

And when he focuses on the storm, he begins to sink.

There is an important lesson here.

What we focus on can determine how we respond to the storms of life.

The storm was real. Peter was not imagining it. The waves were real and the wind was strong.

But Jesus was also real.

Peter's problem was not that he noticed the storm. His problem was that **the storm became bigger in his eyes than Jesus.**

We can do the same.

We can spend so much time looking at our problems that we forget to look at Christ.

We can become so focused on what might happen tomorrow that we forget that God is already with us today.

We can become overwhelmed by the size of the storm and forget the greatness of the God who stands in the middle of it.

Peter begins to sink, but he does something right.

He cries out: **“Lord, save me!”**

And immediately Jesus reaches out his hand and catches him.

What a beautiful picture of grace.

Peter's faith was imperfect.

Peter became afraid.

Peter began to sink.

But Jesus did not let him go.

That is good news for us.

Our faith does not have to be perfect for Jesus to hold us.

Sometimes our prayer may be no more than:

“Lord, save me.”

And that is enough.

Jesus reaches out his hand.

Conclusion: Remember, trust and reach out

Psalm 105 tells us to **remember** what God has done.

Matthew 14 tells us to **trust** Jesus in the storm.

And Peter's experience reminds us to **reach out** when our faith becomes weak.

So perhaps today we can carry three simple words with us:

Remember. Trust. Reach.

Remember God's faithfulness.

Remember the prayers that God has answered, the doors God has opened, the people God has sent into your life, and the times God has carried you through difficult circumstances.

Trust Jesus in the storm.

The storm may be strong, but Jesus is stronger.

And **reach** out to him.

When you feel yourself sinking, don't be ashamed to cry, “Lord, save me.”

Because the same Jesus who reached out to Peter reaches out to us.

And finally, notice where the story ends.

When Jesus and Peter get into the boat, the wind dies down. And the disciples worship Jesus, saying:

“Truly you are the Son of God.”

The storm became an opportunity to discover who Jesus really was.

Perhaps some of the storms we face can also become places where we discover the faithfulness, presence and grace of Christ in a deeper way.

So whatever storm you may be facing today, remember:

God has been faithful.

Jesus is with you.

And when you begin to sink, his hand is already reaching for you.

Amen.

Hymn: H&P 260 — Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it

Prayer of Intercession

Lord, may those who live in fear cling on to hope
and may we all work together for a safer world.

Loving God in our divided world we pray for unity
among families, among communities, among faiths, among the nations.

We pray for peace in the Middle East, in Ukraine,
and ask your blessing on all the volatile places in the world,
places where those who speak truth are silenced,
and for those who are killed and injured going about their daily lives.

Lord, may those who live in fear cling on to hope
and may we all work together for a safer world.

We pray for all displaced people around the world.
For those living in abject poverty and for those in refugee camps.
We pray for an end to the exploitation of the vulnerable by people
smugglers and for those whose desperation leads them to climb into
small boats to try and cross seas and oceans.

We pray for wisdom and compassion for those who have to make difficult
decisions about immigration and for policies that are sustainable and fair
for all countries who give refuge to families and those seeking better
lives.

We pray for those communities overwhelmed by the number of people coming to their shores and for those communities whose resources are stretched and for all places where there is tension and mistrust.

Lord, may those who live in fear cling on to hope
and may we all work together for a safer world.

We continue to pray for all people and wildlife that have lost their lives, their livelihoods and their habitats in wildfires.
For places where drought has devastated crops and where animals are dying. We pray for our farmers and all who work on the land.

Lord, may those who live in fear cling on to hope
and may we all work together for a safer world.

We pray for those who have been victims of crime and those who feel justice hasn't been served and their voices not heard.
We pray for those in prison, for prison chaplains and all who seek to help offenders turn their lives around.

We pray for those entrusted with the responsibility of sentencing and releasing those who have committed crimes.
We pray for the families of victims whose killers have never been brought to justice and we pray for the families of those in prison.

Lord, may those who live in fear cling on to hope
and may we all work together for a safer world.

And finally we entrust to you those we love:
those who are ill, those who feel lost, those who carry heavy burdens and those we are estranged from.

Lord, may those who live in fear cling on to hope
and may we all work together for a safer world.

In Jesus name
Amen.

The Peace

