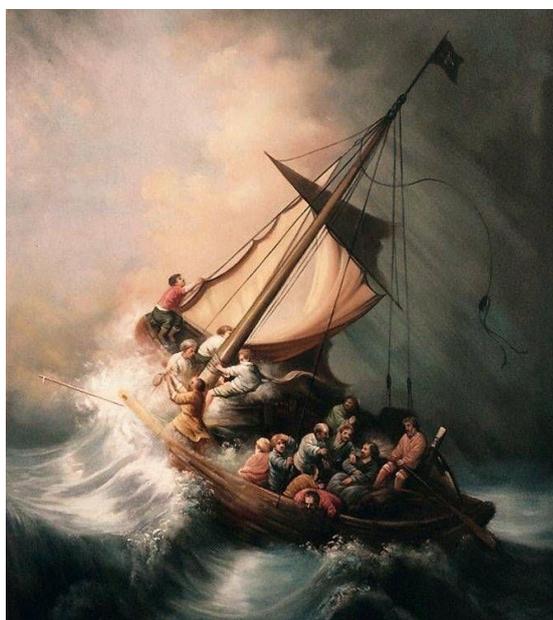


This week our readings celebrate the Lord of the storm. The first reading from the book of Job, the Lord says to Job:

“Who pent up the sea behind closed doors....I marked the bounds it was not to cross....Come thus far, I said, and no farther: here your proud waves shall break.”

And the psalm continues the theme of God summoning the gale and tossing the waves of the sea, the responding to the cries of the people by stilling the storm and rescuing them in their distress. This is then developed in the Gospel we know as the Calming of the Storm.



What a storm we have been in over the last 15 months of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have ridden out many storms; thought the calm had come, only to find ourselves in another storm. We see glimmers of stillness, and hope that the worst is over, but we also know that this may take more time. **So where is God in all this? Where is the God with such power that the wind and sea obey him?**



FOR I AM CONVINCED THAT
NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE, NEITHER
ANGELS NOR DEMONS, NEITHER THE
PRESENT NOR THE FUTURE, NOR ANY
POWERS, NEITHER HEIGHT NOR
DEPTH, NOR ANYTHING ELSE IN ALL
CREATION, WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE
US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD THAT IS
IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.

In the Gospel, the disciples wake Jesus and say,

“Master, do you not care? We are going down!”

How often during this period of Coronavirus have we said the same? Does God not care? Why is God allowing so many people to suffer? And yet, God allowed Jesus, the beloved Son, to suffer and die. And Jesus, who prayed that the cup of suffering may be taken from him, was able to say,

“Not my will, but yours be done”, mirroring the words of Mary at the Annunciation,
“Let it be done to me according to your word”

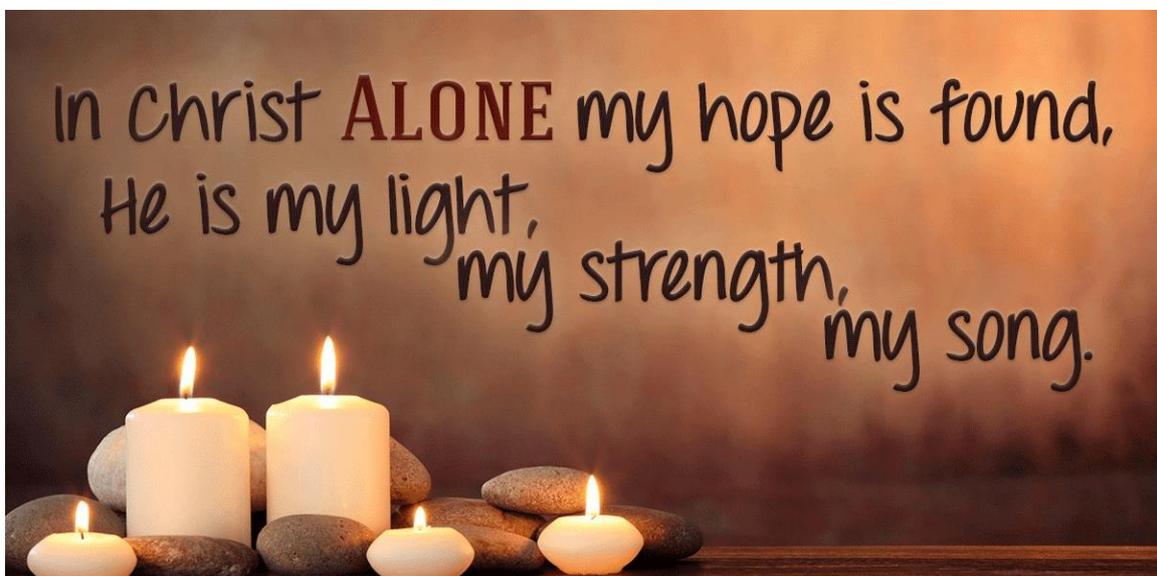
Take time to stop and watch this YouTube video which draws us closer to the Gospel story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abDzMnIybqs>

When we feel abandoned by Jesus that is when he is closest to us.

*When we ask the question, “Why is this happening to me?” perhaps what we should be saying is,
“Holy Spirit bring me your peace, courage and love.”*

When we feel that we are drowning in the difficulties of life, we need to ask God to be present in our lives in ways that we can understand.



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