

Harvest 2021 I will stand

In preparation for the service today, please have an A4 sheet of paper ready so you can make a paper boat. We will display these and then be sending them to Christian Aid who will take them to COP26 in Glasgow where they will join a fleet of prayer boats made by the Young Christian Climate Network and others in their pilgrimage to Glasgow through the UK to stand with others for the sake of all God's creation.

Notices

Good morning and welcome to our service at Tyndale today. Whether you are at home watching, or here with us, a visitor, or a regular attendee, we give you a very warm welcome and hope you feel at home with us as we worship together.

This morning our service is being led by our Community Minister, Rachel Haig. Rachel, thank you for leading our worship this morning, especially as we come together and celebrate our Harvest Service.

On Tuesday, our doors will be open for Coffee Shop, which will run from 10am until 12 noon as usual in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, whilst enjoying each other's company.

On Wednesday evening, Time@tyndale is our Students Welcome back BBQ, where we offer burgers and hotdogs on the forecourt, to students passing by, and those who normally come along to Time@tyndale. The BBQ food will be available from 7.30pm, so do come and join us, for what is always a fun evening on the forecourt.

On Thursday we have our zoom Coffee Shop, where we can enjoy each other's company whilst still at home. The coffee Shop starts at 11am and the joining details are on our Tyndale website. Thank you.

Call to worship

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ, be with you

See what love the Father has given us,

ALL: that we should be called the children of God.

For all God's children and the earth that is our home

ALL: we offer our thanks and prayers. We will not stand alone.

Song From the sun's rising

Graham Kendrick

Response

Leader: Look at your hands.

See the touch and the tenderness.

ALL: GOD'S OWN FOR THE WORLD.

Look at your feet.

See the path and the direction.

ALL: GOD'S OWN FOR THE WORLD.

Look at your heart.

See the fire and the love.

ALL: GOD'S OWN FOR THE WORLD.

Look at the cross.

See God's Son and our Saviour.

ALL: GOD'S OWN FOR THE WORLD.

This is God's world

ALL: AND WE WILL SERVE GOD IN IT.

Song My Jesus, my Saviour

Darlene Zschech

Opening Prayer

God of creation, on this Sunday when we celebrate Harvest time, we give you thanks for the goodness of our lives. We've gathered here in your house to open up our hearts and minds, so you can be with us, talk to us, enjoy our company, and we can listen and be stilled inside, and go to the deeper places of our lives.

When first you walked and talked with human beings, it was in a garden full of growing things. It was your generous gift, your imagination and desire for company that spoke life into being. It was good, you said. And still we believe you see our goodness. You made us in your image and we thank you for all the acts of kindness, generosity and goodness that will go on in this world today. All the sharing, welcoming, praying, sacrifice, courageous acts that one will give for another to live and thrive.

Remind us again of the beauty of your world. Open our eyes to see the lives of others as part of your gift and to see and celebrate how you are at work in them, so that we might believe that you will also work in and through us. We thank you for one another here today and for those who fill our lives with loving acts, like preparing this space, keeping us safe, provide meals for us, do shopping for us, cheer us when we're down, look after us when we're ill, watch out for us and encourage us when we struggle.

We know that often this world seems a cruel and unkind place, full of loneliness and hatred and division. We're sorry for any of the times when we've contributed to that. When we've allowed our weaknesses and fears to shape our actions. When we've chosen the easy route that ignores the damage to your world. When we have consumed without responsibility. Forgive us for the times when we can only see our own needs and desires and forget our neighbors are yours too.

We thank you for the love and forgiveness we can know through Jesus. We can never understand how much it cost to make his home with us on this earth. But we're glad to know that we were worth it. Thank you that you want to be with us so much. Help us to let you into our hearts and lives. Call out love from us, so we may see you in each other. Today as we celebrate another Harvest time, give us a spirit of thankfulness, and peace, give us a spirit of justice and joy, and fill us with a sense of your presence. In Jesus name.

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Hymn BPW 123 For the fruits of your creation (Ar hyd y nos)

Feature Video

Reading [Mark 4:35-41](#)

Sermon **Boats in the storm** Mark 4: 35-41

Jesus has completed a day's teaching on the shoreline of Galilee. The crowd have pressed and clamoured around the boat whilst Jesus has told them stories about being like different types of soil that seed may find root in, or not. He talked in riddles about lamps under beds, and secrets and people having ears to listen. What else are ears for? And he spoke of the Kingdom of God using everyday pictures that they'd understand or could see around them. And in the snatched moments in-between the stories he explained everything to the disciples, to them had been given the secret of the Kingdom! When evening came, it's a bit crowded to find some peace, so they pushed out the boats to cross to the other side of the lake. They leave behind the crowds of demanding people, it's just Jesus and the disciples.

The disciples have a few hardy fishermen amongst them, and Jesus is a landlubber, a mere teacher, what's more he's been at work all day, and teaching is a very tiring job! So Jesus leaves the sailor's to it and goes to sleep. The Sea of Galilee is still known for its unpredictability. Sweeping down from the hillsides that surround, the wind whips up the sea and a storm is upon them before they know it. The waves almost swamp the boat, as they crash over the disciples, threateningly.

At this point, it's helpful to grasp the 'depths' (pardon the pun) which are used in the storytelling to help us understand just how relevant this story is for us. It's useful to know something of the Jewish imagery from the Old Testament. Ancient creation stories portrayed God's victorious struggle to control the sea and hold back the forces of chaos and evil that are in the sea. So to control the sea is a known characteristic of God's power and victory over the forces of evil and darkness. There's lots of references in the psalms to sea monsters and God's power to quell the sea. The creation story itself powerfully speaks of the way God brings order and boundaries to the chaos of water that initially swallows everything. So now we can understand a bit more about our beginning phrase about being caught between the Devil & deep blue sea. The sea was a symbol of evil and chaos and only the power of God can save you from it.

And those who lived by the sea know the terrors it can hold and the power waiting to be unleashed by a storm. But my experience is that God is greater than the storm. Oh, the storm can be bad, life threatening, hold terrors that shake us to the foundations. That's what those fishermen disciples were feeling. But even in the most terrible storm we can be confident that God is stronger and will save.

There are times in each of our lives where it feels like chaos has broken in. Like the effects of the Sea, so uncontrollable, uncontainable, a powerful force that seems untamed. It goes where it wants and does as it wills.

Sometimes the storm seems to appear out of nowhere. A death, an illness, pain, a broken relationship, a loved one in trouble, a redundancy, moving home, children that worry us, demands made by other people on us, too much to do and not enough time, an overcrowded diary, absolute tiredness, the withdrawal of foreign troops leading to a change in regime or a Worldwide Pandemic. There doesn't seem to be any rhyme or reason, only questions and more questions and an overwhelming feeling that we will drown in the rush, and busyness, sorrow and pain of the storms wind and rain and darkness. Questions or statements like, 'I didn't ask for this', 'it's not fair', 'why does it have to be this way?', 'is there no one who can change things', 'when will it end', 'how will it end' 'how can God let this happen' if there's a God why didn't he do something? 'How can God be good?' These and so many other thoughts which cross through crowded minds at times of distress.

The disciples, too, were thrown into fears and doubts. Never mind they were fishermen, they were scared cos they knew the power of the sea better than anyone, and the unforgiving nature of the storm seeming determined to sink them. Then notice the contrast of the sleeping Jesus, peacefully unaware, with his head on a cushion. Jesus who was in the same storm and in the same danger. How could he sleep at a time like this? Is he stupid? Doesn't he care that we're frightened to death? Strangely, the disciples don't ask Jesus for a miracle, they accuse him of not caring. They don't ask for help, they get angry with him, after all he told them to set sail in the first place! Seems like it was just the same when Jesus was with them as it is for us relying on our faith to answer our questions. Same questions, same responses!

The presence of a sleeping Jesus should have assured them of their safety, but they reacted as if Jesus wasn't there. They still didn't see who Jesus was, they hadn't recognised God's power at work through Jesus. And who can blame them. For what we say with our lips is often much more difficult to accept with our hearts when the storm hits. The disciples knew the struggle between understanding Jesus teaching about this coming Kingdom of God and the overwhelming feeling that the reality seemed quite the opposite. They were excluded from towns now. They were not popular with the authorities. It was a hand to mouth existence they lived. They had given up everything. All they had was Jesus. And he was asleep!

Well, Jesus, from a rude awakening, chooses to demonstrate that he's got the power to calm the storm. Jesus addresses the mess of the storm and there is peace. No wonder the disciples were in awe. They should've known, but now they see, they were in safe keeping **as long** as they were with a sleeping Jesus. And we're left with a question? Who then, is this, that even the wind and sea obey?

This is the one who stands with us. This is the one who tells his disciples to stand with the crowd. This is the one who encourages us to pray for, and to stand with, God's children, both near and far.

We have something of an advantage over the disciples in that we know this story leads to resurrection, new life. So standing together with others, we do so in the knowledge that love conquers all, and we are not alone. People are doing it right now. Across the UK. Standing with others in difficult situations. Standing with others, well, walking together to Glasgow actually, Just one example, because there are actual storms, clearly connected to

Climate change which are uprooting people's lives, destroying their homes, throwing many into chaos so that they fear for their families and communities. Real storms that require clear action. Because we are not all in the same boat.

And in standing with others today we're invited to make little prayer boats. To display them and then join them with others as world leaders gather on 1st November through to 12th in Glasgow to negotiate and agree plans to combat the threat to our home with time getting desperate.

We have given thanks for the goodness our planet provides for us, we have heard stories of those who are trusting God in the midst of difficult circumstances, we have recognised Jesus presence can calm the storm, we have brought food for those in need, now we also symbolise our willingness to stand and face the storms of life in the name of Jesus.

(To those at home) Make your boat and please let us know if you would like me to collect it so it can be included.

Making a boat <https://youtu.be/vNba3jbBSOw>

Song 'Alleluia! Raise the gospel' Bernadette Farrell

Prayers of Intercession led by Lesley Fuller

Song If the fields are parched (Have mercy)

Harvest Offering

O God our maker, receive our gifts offered freely to you. May they be like offerings of peace in the storms that the world is facing. May our boats, joined with other boats, be symbols of our desire for good decisions to be made to face the climate crisis and to show love for this home you created for us, and for every person.

So we share the grace with each other:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore, Amen.

BPW 120 Come, you thankful people, come

Blessing The blessing of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit we with you now and remain with you always.
Amen