

The Vine at Home
Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Fourth after Pentecost) – Year B
Sunday 20th June

Call to worship

Lord you have called us here,
And we have come, to worship you.

Your Spirit is already here amongst us,
And your love is all around us.

May we know your presence Lord, during this time together. Amen.¹

Hymn: Be still for the presence of the Lord -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDP9pfVNpdc>

Opening Prayers

In the storms of life Jesus you say 'Peace, be still.'
So as we begin our worship, we say 'Peace, be still.'

Thank you for this day and for the blessings that you bring to us this new day. 'Peace, be still.'

Calming God, who speaks peace over the raging sea, we invite you into our worship.
'Peace, be still.'

Caring God, who encourages us to trust, may our ears be attentive to listen to your voice.
Open our hearts to receive so that we might leave changed.
'Peace, be still.'

Ever present God who is with us in the boat of life, open our eyes so that we can see your presence.
'Peace, be still.'

As we navigate the storms of life together, we say Jesus we need you and we need each other.
'Peace, be still.'

Strengthen and embolden us during this journey and breathe wind into our sails. 'Peace, be still.'

Amen.²

Let us now say the Lord's prayer

Readings: 1 Samuel 17:32-49

³² David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." ³³ Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth." ³⁴ But David

¹ Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

² Opening prayers written by Matthew Forsyth

said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷ David said, "The Lord, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the Lord be with you!"

³⁸ Saul clothed David with his armour; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. ³⁹ David strapped Saul's sword over the armour, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them." So David removed them. ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

⁴¹ The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. ⁴² When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. ⁴³ The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field." ⁴⁵ But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand."

⁴⁸ When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹ David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

6 As we work together with him,[¶] we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. **2** For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! **3** We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, **4** but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, **5** beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; **6** by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, **7** truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; **8** in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; **9** as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; **10** as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

11 We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. **12** There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. **13** In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

Mark 4:35-41 - **Jesus Stills a Storm**

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” **36** And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. **37** A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. **38** But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” **39** He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. **40** He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” **41** And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

Reflections on the reading

[Today's reflection is written by The Vine Editor – Tim Baker. You can read and make use of the full reflection in this week's Vine resources – contact thevine@twelvebaskets.co.uk to subscribe.]

Henry Stewart, the business leader, writes in his book 'The Happy Manifesto' about the limitations of always focusing on our weaknesses. Rather, he invites us to think more about what we are good at, and spend our time and energy on that. For example, he highlights the typical 'appraisal' process in a business setting, where people discuss their strengths and weaknesses and then spend the rest of the time concentrating on how their weaknesses can be improved, worked upon, trained out of them, etc.

And this is not just true in business life, is it? It's true in our whole lives, and in our Christian discipleship. How often do we spend all our time and energy on our perceived weaknesses, when we could be focusing on our strengths, our gifts, our own role within the larger body of Christ.

What about you? What is your role? Where you are being challenged to use your strengths, try to come to at least one concrete action that you can take this week, something that will make a difference.

Let us sit for a moment, and in the quiet, I want you to imagine yourself doing something you love, and something you think you are quite good at.

Perhaps you are on your own, or perhaps with others.

Perhaps it is a particular task, or leisure activity.

Perhaps it's taking place in one particular location, which is what makes it so special.

As we hold the quiet, just continue to imagine yourself doing that activity. Enjoying it. Flourishing...

[Hold a few moments of quiet].

I want you to remember what this feels like.
I want you to hold the strength of this feeling.
This is your strength, lean on it.

[Pause].

Now, how can you use this feeling of strength in your life? How can you use it to face the storms that are coming this week, this month, this year?
How can you take your strengths, and make them tools for making the world a better place?
Use these next few moments to decide – what can you do?
What can I do?
What can each one of us do, that will make use of our strengths this week?

[Hold a few moments of quiet].

Holy God, take these moments, take this energy, take these commitments, and use them for your mission here on earth.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.³

Prayers of intercession

Jesus, you calmed the storm, commanded the waves to become ripples, and the wind to fall silent, Your words calmed the hearts of your friends.

Be still. Be still and believe. Be still and know.

Jesus, calm the storms in the hearts of your people.

In the hearts of those who do not feel safe in the place they should call home,
In the hearts of those who live in war-torn nations, fearing for their families,
In the hearts of those whose loved ones are far away, fighting in the midst of conflict,

Jesus, calm the storms in the hearts of your people

In the hearts of those whose lives have been torn apart by grief,
In the hearts of those who live with regret,
In the hearts of those who feel helpless in the face of impossible circumstances,
In the hearts of those who worry about someone they love,

Jesus, calm the storms in the hearts of your people,

Jesus, help us to calm the storms in the hearts of your people.

Compel us to speak peace,
Embody peace,
Make peace,
In all we say,
In all we do,
In all we are,

³ Reflection written by Tim Baker

In your gracious and beautiful name, we pray, Amen.⁴

Hymn: Lord you call us to your service

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siBX8rVyc4>

Blessing

Go with courage, followers of the Christ.

Go into a world crying out for love and hope.

Go to spread peace.

Go, and the Spirit of God goes before you.

Amen.⁵

⁴ Prayers of intercession written by Emma Dobson

⁵ Additional prayers by Tim Baker

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