

“Calm Amidst the Storm”

Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The Disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!”

He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him?” Matthew 8:23-27

We all know what it is like in the midst of a storm. There is chaos all around. We don’t know exactly where the storm has come from or where it is going. We don’t know how long the storm will last or how bad it will be. One of the things that is scary about storms is that they are so much out of our control, and what we do know about them is so much less than what we don’t know.

I think about this scripture passage a lot. I think we are all collectively in the midst of a great storm right now—a storm the likes of which we have never seen before. We don’t know how long it will last or how bad it will get. But we do know that, like most storms, it will cause some damage.

I feel a little like one of the disciples right now, looking at a sleeping Jesus and screaming: “Save us! We are all about to drown!” But then I look and see Jesus, slowly getting up and eventually calming the storm.

There’s an old hymn I’ve had running through my mind the last week or so which I’d like to share with you.

Why should I feel discouraged?

Why should the shadows come?

Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,

When Jesus is my portion?

My constant friend is he:

His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

(His Eye is on the Sparrow, Civilla Martin)



As we continue through this storm all around us, remember friends, His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches you and me. The best things for us to do at this point is to follow the advice of the experts – social distancing, continuing important hygiene practices (handwashing thoroughly, etc.), and being careful around high-risk individuals. A question we discussed in worship yesterday is what does it look like to serve God and our neighbor in the midst of a pandemic? I don't know all the answers to this question – but I know that as we continue to pray AND LISTEN to God, the way will be revealed. A few ideas are to check on your neighbors, call your friends – especially those who live alone or who have limited social contacts, and pray for calm.

Lastly, here at the church we have made a few changes and will likely continue to adapt as new guidelines and policies are introduced. It is likely that our worship services will look different in the coming weeks, including having them broadcast via electronic means (Facebook live and/or YouTube). No decisions have been made at this point, but as they are, I will communicate to you as quickly as I can. I encourage you to check your email and our Facebook page regularly for updates. If you receive our newsletter in print rather than electronic means, we are establishing a phone tree to make sure to keep you in the loop.

You remain in my prayers and I ask for you to hold the leaders of our church in your prayers as we continue to make important decisions in this ever-changing environment.

His eye is on the sparrow, and on you and me. It might feel like Jesus is sleeping through this storm, leaving us to figure it all out on our own, but I suspect he's a little like my dad, not really sleeping, "just resting my eyes."

Be blessed and be calm!

Chris



You are in my thoughts
and prayers.



Roy Ball	Michael Hatfield
Les Case	Derek Petty
Donald Cohan	Don Raymond
Dorothy Conn	Steve Raymond
Wade Davis	Nancy Rowe
Chad Elmer	Erin Scott
Janet Ford	Larry Sparks
Richard Fuerst	Ray Trowbridge
Winnie Fuerst	Elaine West
Harvey Geary	Dorothy Wilson

Congregation de Mellier
Heart and Soul Children's
Learning Center
All Ministries
of the Church



Orders are now
being taken for
Lilies to beautify
our Sanctuary
this Easter
Season.
Lilies are \$10
each.
Please order
by April 1.

The Be an Angel women made 13 mats to send over to Lazarus last Saturday. We are so blessed to have these amazing women put so much time and effort into helping the homeless in our communities.

Please remember to thank them for
their service and loving hearts.

March/April 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
15 Services 8 & 10:00	16	17	18 Be an Angel 10 Yoga 6:15 Women's Bible Study 7:15 pm	19 Men's Bible Study 7:00	20	21
22 Services 8 & 10:00	23	24 Church Council 7	25	26	27	28 Beautification Day 9-12:00
29 Services 8 & 10:00	30	31	1	2	3	4 Scouts 5K-8:00 am
5 Services 8 & 10:00 Palm Sunday	6	7	8	9 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm	10 Good Friday Service 7:00 pm	11