

**“Peace I leave with You”
by Rev. Frances Savill
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Mark 4:36-41

All week we've been diving into a deeper friendship with God.
On Wednesday we talked about ***"God is a friend we can trust."*** ***Thanks God!***

One of the ways we learn we can trust God is because of the example of Jesus, God's Son.

All week we have been reading the Bible, and learning about Jesus' life and the example he was for us.

The passage of Scripture we are looking at is from Mark 4.

Mark was a disciple of Jesus.

One of Jesus' good friends.

Mark wrote his gospel so that everyone would know who Jesus is, and that Jesus wants us to know that God is a friend forever! Thanks God.

So far in Mark's gospel we have seen Jesus heal, and cast out evil, set people free from pain and disease, all that was hurting and destroying them.

We have seen the crowds flock to Jesus, and Jesus cares for each person. NO one is turned away.

The disciples and Jesus left the crowds behind and went out on the water in their boat.

Jesus fell asleep – caring for so many people- teaching, healing, bringing life and healing and wholeness to others, must have been exhausting physically, spiritually and emotionally.

Several of the disciples were fisherman, the boat, and all the passengers were in good hands on the water.

But suddenly a fierce wind came up.

The waves threatened to swamp the boat.
These experienced fishermen knew they were in grave danger.

Think for a moment about the picture that
Mark paints for us.

The waters, the deep, the wind and the waves threatening life should remind
us of different stories in the Bible.

First, the waters of creation.

The waters are a symbol of chaos.

God's Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep, and brought life and order
out of the chaos.

Remember the flood?

The waters overwhelmed the earth and all was destroyed, except those who
were kept safe by God in another boat.

So here are the disciples in a boat with Jesus, and they are threatened by
these waters of chaos.

They are going to be overwhelmed, the boat is going to be torn apart.

All of them are going to drown.

And there is Jesus asleep in the boat.

Does it ever feel like chaos is about to overwhelm the world, or overwhelm
your world?

Are there ever moments when the darkness is closing in?

The picture is that Jesus is so close.

And when the disciples call out to him and wake him, he commands the wind
and the waves.

With a word, just like at the dawn of creation, order comes.

The forces of chaos are pushed back and stilled.

The storm, as quickly as it came, is ended.

The disciples are no longer filled with fear at the storm, but now they are filled with awe and fear of the Lord, the holy reverence, of Jesus sitting in their boat.

And the question Mark asks is who is this that even the wind and the waves obey him.

And for us that know who Jesus is, it seems there is another question, maybe a deeper question for us.

The second question, the question for us it seems to me, after you know that Jesus is the Messiah, the son of God, is "Will you trust him?"

In the midst of the storm, when chaos threatens, will you trust him to calm the winds and drive back the chaos and save you?

Will you trust this world to him and his ways?

When chaos is threatening, and evil seems to win, and it seems that we are going to be overwhelmed, will you trust him and his ways?

Will you trust him with your life?

Will you trust him in your death?

This week we learned: ***God is a friend we can trust! Thanks God!***

Sometimes when we are upset it can be hard to remember to trust God, and so we did two things.

We practiced a breath prayer to help us be calm and remember that God is near.

We breathed in saying: Thank you Jesus

And as you breath out say: For your peace

And we memorized a wonderful verse of the Bible. It is a word spoken by Jesus:

"I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart." (John14:27)

So we always remember that God is a friend we can trust! Thanks God.