

## MUMC At-Home Worship: March 7, 2021

This week, we come to what may well be a familiar gospel account! Three of the four gospels tell some version of this story, when Jesus calms a stormy sea for his fearful disciples. I encourage you to engage with the scripture using the reflection questions below (as usual!) but would also invite you to read the same story in Matthew 8:23-27 and Luke 8:22-25 to see the subtle differences between the three. Why might Mark have chosen to tell the story in the way he did? As we continue through the gospel of Mark this Lenten season, I'm thankful for the opportunity to experience the particularity of this gospel and the truths it might reveal about the person of Jesus – and I'm especially thankful to do it alongside all of you. Thanks for worshipping with us today! ~ *Pastor Dillon*

*If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:*

Lord, help us use this Lenten season to draw near to you. Strip away all that distracts us and open our eyes to see you anew. Refresh our weary hearts to beat with your love and compassion. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

**Hymn:** *How Firm a Foundation*, United Methodist Hymnal #529 [watch/listen here](#)

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 4:35-41

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

### Reflect:

1. Notice that in Mark's telling of the story, Jesus' disciples don't ask Jesus to save them. Instead, they awaken him with the presumption that he won't save them, saying, "Don't you care that we're drowning?" Have you experienced a time when, like the disciples, you wondered if God cared for you? How did you come through this experience?
2. Jesus does not tell his disciples not to be afraid but instead asks them, "Why are you frightened?" Instead of letting the disciples flee from their fear, Jesus asks them to truly consider it. How would you respond if Jesus asked you the same question today? How might reflecting on our fears be a valuable spiritual practice?
3. Seeing Jesus calm the storm does not seem to clarify who Jesus is for the disciples; their response is to wonder aloud, "Who then is this?" What does this story reveal about Jesus' character to you? How might Jesus' interaction with his disciples and the calming of the seas impact or alter our faith in Christ?

**Hymn:** *Give to the Winds Thy Fears*, United Methodist Hymnal #129 [watch/listen here](#)

**Prayer Requests:** Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

### Lord's Prayer

**Hymn:** *Stand By Me*, United Methodist Hymnal #512 [watch/listen here](#)

**Closing Prayer:** Holy God, sometimes the crashing waves and winds of life bring us to fear but not to faith. Help us probe the depths of our fear rather than shrinking from it, that we might follow you even through the storm. Grant us the courage to live in faith this day and forever. Amen.

*(Blow out the candle)*

*How Firm a Foundation*

**United Methodist Hymnal #529**

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. “Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;  
I’ll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
3. “When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;  
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.
4. “When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.
5. “The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”

*“How Firm a Foundation” words and music are in the public domain.*

**Mark 4:35-41 (CEB)**

Later that day, when evening came, Jesus said to them, “Let’s cross over to the other side of the lake.” They left the crowd and took him in the boat just as he was. Other boats followed along.

Gale-force winds arose, and waves crashed against the boat so that the boat was swamped. But Jesus was in the rear of the boat, sleeping on a pillow. They woke him up and said, “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re drowning?”

He got up and gave orders to the wind, and he said to the lake, “Silence! Be still!” The wind settled down and there was a great calm. Jesus asked them, “Why are you frightened? Don’t you have faith yet?”

Overcome with awe, they said to each other, “Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!”

*Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

***Give to the Winds Thy Fears***  
**United Methodist Hymnal #129**

1. Give to the winds thy fears;  
hope and be undismayed.  
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears,  
God shall lift up thy head.
2. Through waves and clouds and storms,  
God gently clears thy way;  
wait thou God's time; so shall this night  
soon end in joyous day.
3. Leave to God's sovereign sway  
to choose and to command;  
so shalt thou, wondering, own that way,  
how wise, how strong this hand.
4. Let us in life, in death,  
thy steadfast truth declare,  
and publish with our latest breath  
thy love and guardian care.

*"Give to the Winds Thy Fears" words are by Paul Gerhardt, 1653; trans. By John Wesley, 1739; music is by William H. Walter, 1894; and both are in the public domain.*

***Stand By Me***  
**United Methodist Hymnal #512**

1. When the storms of life are raging,  
stand by me; (stand by me)  
when the storms of life are raging,  
stand by me. (stand by me)  
When the world is tossing me like a ship upon  
the sea, thou who rulest wind and water,  
stand by me. (stand by me)
2. In the midst of tribulation,  
stand by me; (stand by me)  
in the midst of tribulation,  
stand by me. (stand by me)  
When the hosts of hell assail, and my strength  
begins to fail, thou who never lost a battle,  
stand by me. (stand by me)
3. In the midst of faults and failures,  
stand by me; (stand by me)  
in the midst of faults and failures,  
stand by me. (stand by me)  
When I've done the best I can, and my friends  
misunderstand, thou who knowest all about  
me, stand by me. (stand by me)
4. In the midst of persecution,  
stand by me; (stand by me)  
in the midst of persecution,  
stand by me. (stand by me)  
When my foes in war array undertake to stop  
my way, thou who saved Paul and Silas,  
stand by me. (stand by me)
5. When I'm growing old and feeble,  
stand by me; (stand by me)  
when I'm growing old and feeble,  
stand by me. (stand by me)  
When my life becomes a burden, and I'm  
nearing chilly Jordan, O thou Lily of the  
Valley, stand by me. (stand by me)

*"Stand By Me" words are by Charles Albert Tindley, 1906; music is by Charles Albert Tindley, 1906; arr. by William Farley Smith, 1989. Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House*