**Monday 8th June**

Matthew 14: 27-33

But Jesus immediately said to them: ‘Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.’

‘Lord, if it’s you,’ Peter replied, ‘tell me to come to you on the water.’

‘Come,’ he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came towards Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. ‘You of little faith,’ he said, ‘why did you doubt?’And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’

There can be no doubt that we are living in turbulent times. Not only are we contending with a global pandemic, but the tragic murder of George Floyd has highlighted some of the ongoing evil of racism in our world, and tensions have been heightened. We see a society where division is rife leading to unrest. We see a world that has been rocked and shaken and where many of the things that we look to for security have been stripped away.

In turmoil, there is only one place for us to turn. This story of Peter walking on the water has been playing in my mind recently. There are the obvious parallels with stormy conditions on the Sea of Galilee. We know that Jesus has form when it comes to calming storms. So isn’t it interesting that Jesus doesn’t calm the winds before he walks on the water? And isn’t it interesting that he doesn’t calm the winds before he invites Peter to step out of the boat? It is only after they are both back in the boat that the wind dies down.

Jesus calls us to keep our attention on Him in times of turmoil. If we don’t, if we look at the storm around us, we will begin to feel as though we are sinking (although, of course, as soon as Peter begins to sink and calls out to Jesus, he reaches out and rescues him). It occurs to me that holding Jesus hand and walking on the water is a safe place to be, although it may not always feel that way! However, Jesus does call us to step out into the messiness of the storm, and not remain in the ‘safety’ of the boat.

*Lord, we praise you for your sovereignty over any storm. We thank you that we have the knowledge of your love to keep us trusting in you in times of struggle. We lift the nations of the world to you today in a time of great turmoil, and pray Lord for healing, for peace, for reconciliation. In effect Lord we are praying : ‘Let your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.’ We ask you for the grace to keep our eyes on Jesus as this time, and for the courage and faith to walk with Him, wherever He may lead us. Amen*

