

**Weekly Devotions
South Holburn Church
7th December 2021**

READINGS

"The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty;
The LORD is robed in majesty
And is armed with strength.
The world is firmly established;
It cannot be moved.
Your throne was established long ago;
You are from all eternity.
The seas have lifted up, O LORD,
The seas have lifted up their voice;
The seas have lifted up their pounding waves.
Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,
Mightier than the breakers of the sea--
The LORD on high is mighty.
Your statutes stand firm;
Holiness adorns your house
For endless days, O LORD."

Psalm 93:1-5

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

REFLECTION

Storms seem to be dominating our lives recently. First Storm Arwen, which caused such destruction and disruption, and then Storm Barra, which rages even as I write these words. Nowhere is the power of those storms more clearly seen, than on the coastline as the winds whip up the waves. And we in Aberdeen don't need to be told about the power of the sea. We can look at it every day! Nor do we need to be warned of the effects of a storm on the sea, for, on windy days, we can watch the waters coming crashing over the harbour walls, or the waves breaking on the beach with such force that spray is sent high in the air. And over these last weeks as we have been battered by storms Arwen and Barra, we have seen the force and the power of the sea, as the winds have whipped up the waves. It is an incredible sight, and no matter how hard your heart is, you cannot help but be impressed, even awestruck at the power of the sea.

That's certainly the image that the writer of Psalm 93 (our reading this week) has in mind as he records his thoughts. The land of God's people, Israel, also had a border on the coast where the waves were known for their power and might. Yet, it is not the sea that impresses the psalmist. It is God who created the sea, in all its might and wonder, who draws the psalmist's attention. As mighty as the sea seems, God is greater. As powerful as the winds blow, God is greater. As vast as the ocean is, and as awesome its force appears, God is greater.

However, amidst the business of our lives, with all that bothers us, we sometimes lose sight of what the psalmist sees so clearly – "The Lord reigns ...The Lord on High is mighty".

Never-the-less, our God is greater than the pressures of life which crowd in on us. Greater than the challenges of COVID living, greater than the stresses and expectations of the festive season. And we need to capture again for our own lives, the realisation, that, just as God is more powerful than the sea, so he is more powerful than our problems. He is greater than our questions and doubts. He is bigger than our worries. And because God is mightier than all that assails us, we can live with hope in all circumstances.

May the mighty God, the one who stills storms and commands the winds to be still, bless you with peace today and every day.

PRAYER

Lord God,
How can we find words to describe you,
You are just simply bigger,
Bigger than anything we can ever imagine.
Creator of all,
Who loves us with an unlimited love
You are on top of our sin,
You've got our needs and our worries covered.

And when we struggle Mighty Lord,
When we wrestle with doubt,
When we feel overcome by the events of our lives.
Lead us to your peace,
Lead us to your love

Lead us to your care.

We would draw upon your wisdom and love,

We would have your greatness revealed in our midst

We plead for the strength to be your servants tonight,

To be true to you in all we say and do.

In Jesus name we offer our prayers,

Amen.

