The Original Congregational Church

A Sermon Delivered on June 13, 2021

***Still not Still***

Human time is filled with chaos and confusion.

According to Divine time, things work in a different direction.

In today’s story we see the disciples in the boat with Jesus.

The wind and the waves kick up and threaten to overwhelm them.

The disciples panic. They look for Jesus. They find him.

Jesus is asleep on a cushion. Now that’s calm in the face of chaos.

Imagine being able to face fear with great faith?

Imagine being able to respond to danger with determination?

The story of Jesus stilling the storm is a story about trust.

We are tested daily by what life throws at us. In whom do we trust?

When Jesus rebukes the wind and stills the storm, he then provides the lesson.

It was a teachable moment. “Do you still not believe? Where is your faith?”

The takeaway is that the forces of chaos and confusion are no match for God.

Since the beginning of creation God has set the boundaries for the sea.

Of course, setting the seas apart from dry land took a long time.

We look at our world today. Our days are 24 hours. God’s are much longer.

In the Bible we see God lifting the human condition above the swirling waters.

Noah takes the creatures in an ark to dry ground. Moses splits a way in the Red Sea.

All of this is to show not the supernatural powers of God and through Jesus.

This is to indicate what divine power does: it saves, it rescues, it redeems.

We take heart in this story because Jesus shares our predicament and does something about it.

We do not so much learn about how to cope with chaos as we do the promise of salvation.

God comes to our rescue even when we have lost faith.

God saves even when we are not at our best.

Though we still have little faith, God still cares for us.

When the disciples panic, they ask Jesus, “Don’t you care for us.”

We tend to test the ones we love.

We test God all the time. God are you still there? Don’t you care we are perishing?

Look at the world.

Three mass shooting this week? Our nation divided. The nations drawing circles.

God’s faith is available to us yet things are still not still.

The sea crossing with the disciples is still being asked of us by Jesus.

What seas do we still need to cross?

What dangers do we still need to face?

The work of sharing God’s message of redeeming love goes on.

As we awaken from a year of pandemic, challenges will come our way.

Each day is inherently filled with risk.

Just walking out that door in the morning is fraught with peril.

Yet, we must trust. Trust in the One who gives us a door to walk out of!

We are tested and we are tried. Our souls are being fashioned for sea crossings.

When the storms come, we can rest still in the power of God’s promise of saving grace.

When the wind and waves kick up, we may remain calm and reassured.

Our Lord may be asleep in the boat, but the Lord still brings amazing results to life!

*May God be with you in all the crossings you make and storms to be stilled. Amen.*