



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Reflection June 20, 2021

This Sunday's Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:32-49, Psalm 9:9-20, 2 Corinthians 6:1-13, Mark 4:35-41

"Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (Mark 4:41) That is what Jesus's disciples asked after they woke Jesus up from his nap on the ship during a violent storm. Jesus calmed the storm by saying "Peace! Be still!" and then turned on the disciples, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" Most of us have pleasant images of the ocean, calming rhythmic surf, cool sea breezes, picturesque sunsets. Though few of us have sailed the Sea of Galilee during a storm, I suspect many of us have had a rough voyage or two in our past, on the sea and ashore.

Storms have happened and will happen again. Even though we prepare, there is no way to prepare for the anxiety we feel in the face of uncertainty. Sadly, many people are suffering from the raging wildfires in our country, due to heat, drought, and often human carelessness. In fact, Rev. Dr. Pam Peterson and her congregation in Red Lodge, Montana are facing a fire storm right now. (Below: day and night pictures of downtown and hills around Red Lodge, Montana, taken by Pastor Pam.)



Pastor Pam gave permission to share her email with you: *"Please include our community in your prayers. The fire was within 10 miles of our homes here, thankfully the winds died down so we had no ember ignitions. So far it has burned over 20,000 acres and is still going, but no longer toward the city. Air support and Level 2 Fire Service has been here for 2 days now, fighting it back. It started on the Wyoming-MT border, just 15 miles from here. With 95 degree temps, 5 % humidity and 10-15 mph winds, it was out of control almost immediately. Sadly, it was a "human start" so that has people very upset. Our church is an evacuation site, we*

housed a wonderful rabbi and her wife and their dog overnight and most of the day yesterday. They were able to return to their cabin late yesterday afternoon. There has been no loss of life, however a number of homes have been lost. ... We have declared a state of emergency so we will get FEMA help... we hold out great hope." KEEP RED LODGE IN OUR PRAYERS!

Today's Gospel story is a reminder that God will always be with us, even when our trust in God disappears and we don't know whether we can withstand the storms we face. So, we have to tell ourselves: "Peace! Be still, for I am with you!"



Special prayers: Please pray for strength and renewed health for Harry and Trudy; for those suffering from drought and fire; comfort all who are sick.