

Pastor Randy's short devotion for Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

“(Jesus) woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” The wind ceased and there was a dead calm. (Mark 4:39 Psalm 121:1)

We all have times when everything is going along just great, then suddenly we find ourselves in a day when one thing after another seems to bring cascading challenges and stress. Some days are like Jesus and the disciples sailing on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus wanted some alone time with his disciples and suggested that they cross the sea to a deserted spot to rest for a while. Jesus goes to the stern of the boat and lays down on the cushions. It isn't long and Jesus falls asleep with the gentle rocking of the boat, the wind filling the sails and the sun shining upon them. While Jesus is asleep, a storm sweeps up over the hills by the Sea of Galilee. Just like that, dark clouds hid the sun, the wind picked up, the waves of the sea became powerful four to five feet white caps. The disciples fear for their life as water begins to fill the boat and they are struggling not to capsize in the middle of the sea. They wake Jesus up. Jesus sees the waves and feels the wind upon his face and declares, “Peace be still!” The wind ceases. The clouds dissipate, the sun shines once again and the sea becomes like glass. When suddenly we face forces that become a storm in our lives, and we feel like we are going to be swamped. We can turn to Jesus who declares, “Peace be still!” He is present. He is greater than our storms and the storms are stilled.