



# Peace!

Be Still!

A Service in  
Times of Disaster

**LEADER'S GUIDE**

PD4

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### About This Service

*For those times when disaster of any kind hits your community, the nation or world, this service provides the hope and comfort people need from the Savior, who said in the midst of a storm, "Peace! Be still!" and there was great calm. Hymns, Bible readings, a children's message and meditations on the power of peace speak to the calm that only Christ can give, even when we find ourselves in the midst of a very unsettled time. Hymns include "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus," "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less," and "When in the Hour of Deepest Need."*

*The CD includes a .pdf of the entire service, text of the order of service, readings, prayers, meditations, a children's message, and hymns in .rtf (rich text format) and a PowerPoint document of the service with text (with a copyright release) for use on screens.*

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### Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

#### Newsletter Notice

*In these stressful, frightening days, you are invited to attend a special worship service on (date and time). We will meet together to hear God's Word and come before our Lord in prayer as we seek the peace that can be found in him alone.*

#### Bulletin Notice

*Jesus our Savior is here with us. He knows our sorrow and distress. In our worship service today we will come before the Lord in prayer and listen to his Word, as we seek that peace that is found in Jesus alone.*

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### Order of Service

*Jesus awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Mark 4:39*

Opening Hymn..... Tallis' Canon LM

When in the hour of deepest need  
We know not where to look for aid;  
When days and nights of anxious thought  
No help or counsel yet have brought.

Then is our comfort this alone  
That we may meet before your throne;  
To you, O faithful God, we cry  
For rescue in our misery.

For you have promised, Lord, to heed  
Your children's cries in time of need  
Through him whose name alone is great,  
Our Savior and our advocate.

And so we come, O God, today  
And all our woes before you lay;  
For sorely tried, cast down, we stand,  
Perplexed by fears on ev'ry hand.

Responsive Reading ..... Psalm 107:1, 23-31

**P** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

**C** For his steadfast love endures forever.

**P** Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters.

**C** They saw the deeds of the LORD, his wondrous works in the deep.

**P** For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea.

**C** They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their evil plight.

**P** They reeled and staggered like drunken men and were at their wits' end.

**C** Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

**P** He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven.

**C** Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, and for his wondrous works to the children of man!

O from our sins, Lord, turn your face;  
Absolve us through your boundless grace.  
Be with us in our anguish still;  
Free us at last from ev'ry ill.

Confession and Absolution

**P** Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

**C** Lord, in times of trouble and sorrow, we sometimes doubt your love and care. We are tempted to put our own needs ahead of the needs of others. We fail to look to you for help and hope. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus our Savior. Restore us in hope and fill us with your peace.

**P** Jesus died on the cross, suffering the punishment we deserved. He rose from death, overcoming all grief and pain, to win forgiveness and eternal life for us. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' wounds you have peace and healing.

**C** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

So we with all our hearts each day  
To you our glad thanksgiving pay,  
Then walk obedient to your Word,  
And now and ever praise you, Lord.

#### Prayer of the Day

Hymn .....Kingsfold CMD

Your hand, O Lord, in days of old was strong to heal and save;  
It triumphed over ills and death, o'er darkness and the grave.  
To you they came, the blind, the mute, the palsied and the lame,  
The lepers in their misery, the sick with fevered frame.

Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health, gave speech and strength and sight;  
And youth renewed and frenzy calmed revealed you, Lord of light.  
And now, O Lord, be near to bless, almighty as before,  
In crowded street, by beds of pain, as by Genes'ret's shore.

O be our great deliv'rer still, the Lord of life and death;  
Restore and quicken, soothe and bless, with your life-giving breath.  
To hands that work and eyes that see give wisdom's healing pow'r  
That whole and sick and weak and strong may praise you evermore.

#### Children's Message

Hymn .....Stephanos 85 83

I am trusting thee, Lord Jesus, trusting only thee;  
Trusting thee for full salvation, great and free.

I am trusting thee for pardon; at thy feet I bow,  
For thy grace and tender mercy trusting now.

Old Testament Reading ..... Isaiah 53:4-6

Meditation: "Peace in Forgiveness"

Hymn .....Stephanos 85 83

I am trusting thee for cleansing in the crimson flood;  
Trusting thee to make me holy by thy blood.

Epistle Reading ..... 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Meditation: "Peace in Weakness"

Hymn .....Stephanos 85 83

I am trusting thee to guide me; thou alone shalt lead,  
Ev'ry day and hour supplying all my need.

Gospel Reading..... Mark 4:35-41

Meditation: "Peace in Jesus"

Hymn .....Stephanos 85 83

I am trusting thee for power; thine can never fail.  
Words which thou thyself shalt give me must prevail.

I am trusting thee, Lord Jesus; never let me fall.  
I am trusting thee forever and for all.

Offering

Prayers

*Each petition ends with the following response:*

**P** *Christ our Hope,*

**C** **Speak your word of peace into our hearts.**

Lord's Prayer

*(Holy Communion, if offered, is celebrated at this time.)*



Benediction

**P** Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.

**C** **Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”**

**P** Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

**C** **Amen.**

Closing Hymn..... Magdalen LM and refrain

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;  
No merit of my own I claim but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;  
In ev’ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant and blood support me in the raging flood;  
When ev’ry earthly prop gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,  
Clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before his throne!  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

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### Complete Script For Worship Leaders

- The **Theme Verse** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader or is read silently by the congregation before the start of the service:

*Jesus awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Mark 4:39*

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Tallis' Canon LM:

When in the hour of deepest need  
We know not where to look for aid;  
When days and nights of anxious thought  
No help or counsel yet have brought.

Then is our comfort this alone  
That we may meet before your throne;  
To you, O faithful God, we cry  
For rescue in our misery.

For you have promised, Lord, to heed  
Your children's cries in time of need  
Through him whose name alone is great,  
Our Savior and our advocate.

And so we come, O God, today  
And all our woes before you lay;  
For sorely tried, cast down, we stand,  
Perplexed by fears on ev'ry hand.

- The **Responsive Reading** (from Psalm 107:1, 23-31) is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

**C** For his steadfast love endures forever.

**P** Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters.

**C** They saw the deeds of the LORD, his wondrous works in the deep.

**P** For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea.

**C** They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their evil plight.

**P** They reeled and staggered like drunken men and were at their wits' end.

**C** Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

**P** He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven.

**C** Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, and for his wondrous works to the children of man!

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Tallis' Canon LM:

O from our sins, Lord, turn your face;  
Absolve us through your boundless grace.  
Be with us in our anguish still;  
Free us at last from ev'ry ill.

- The **Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

**C** Lord, in times of trouble and sorrow, we sometimes doubt your love and care. We are

**tempted to put our own needs ahead of the needs of others. We fail to look to you for help and hope. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus our Savior. Restore us in hope and fill us with your peace.**

☐ Jesus died on the cross, suffering the punishment we deserved. He rose from death, overcoming all grief and pain, to win forgiveness and eternal life for us. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' wounds you have peace and healing.

☑ **Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.**

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Tallis' Canon LM:

So we with all our hearts each day  
To you our glad thanksgiving pay,  
Then walk obedient to your Word,  
And now and ever praise you, Lord.

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor:

☐ Crucified and risen Lord, in these troubled times we are filled with doubt and fear. Help us by your Spirit to cling to your cross, and turn us from our sad and anxious thoughts. On the cross you shared our grief and pain, and there you displayed your steadfast love for us in your suffering and death. By your resurrection you have conquered death, and we pray that you would fill our hearts and minds with peace and hope. Through your holy Word show us ways to share your love and care with those who suffer, so that they will come to know the peace found only through faith in your name. Amen.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Kingsford CMD:

Your hand, O Lord, in days of old was strong to heal and save;  
It triumphed over ills and death, o'er darkness and the grave.  
To you they came, the blind, the mute, the palsied and the lame,  
The lepers in their misery, the sick with fevered frame.

Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health, gave speech and strength and sight;  
And youth renewed and frenzy calmed revealed you, Lord of light.  
And now, O Lord, be near to bless, almighty as before,  
In crowded street, by beds of pain, as by Genes'ret's shore.

O be our great deliv'rer still, the Lord of life and death;  
Restore and quicken, soothe and bless, with your life-giving breath.  
To hands that work and eyes that see give wisdom's healing pow'r  
That whole and sick and weak and strong may praise you evermore.

- The **Children’s Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

*(Needed: a toy boat)*

Ⓟ One day Jesus and his disciples got into a boat and sailed across a big lake called the Sea of Galilee (*“sail” the toy boat*). As they crossed the sea, a big storm came up! The wind blew hard and waves crashed all around them! The boat started to fill up with water (*rock the boat as if in a storm*)! The disciples were scared. They looked around for Jesus. He could help them! Where was Jesus? Why wasn’t he helping them? Finally they found Jesus, sound asleep in the back of the boat! The disciples woke him up and said, “Don’t you care that we are in trouble? We’re going to drown!” Jesus got up. He told the wild wind to calm down. He said to the crashing water, “Peace! Be still!” Do you know what happened next? The wind and water obeyed Jesus! The wind stopped blowing and the water calmed down (*sail the boat smoothly again*). Jesus asked his disciples, “Why were you so afraid?”

Sometimes we experience things that are scary. We live through times of trouble, just as we are now (*mention the current distress or disaster*). When we are scared, we might feel just like the disciples in that boat on the stormy sea. We might ask, “Where are you, Jesus? Don’t you care about us?” But Jesus promised, “I am with you always.” Jesus is with you all the time, every hour, every minute, day and night. He is with you here, right now! He loves you so much that he died on the cross so that your sins could be forgiven. He rose from the dead so that you will live with him forever. That is how much Jesus cares for you! When you are scared or worried, remember that Jesus is with you, just as he was with his disciples on the stormy sea. He will never leave you.

Let’s pray and ask Jesus for his help and his peace: Jesus, when your disciples were scared, you told the wind and water, “Peace! Be still!” When we are scared and worried, fill us with your peace. Amen.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Stephanos 85 83:

I am trusting thee, Lord Jesus, trusting only thee;  
Trusting thee for full salvation, great and free.

I am trusting thee for pardon; at thy feet I bow,  
For thy grace and tender mercy trusting now.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Isaiah 53:4-6, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

- The **Meditation: “Peace in Forgiveness”** is delivered by the pastor:

☐ “What did I do to deserve this?” “Those people were innocent! They did not deserve what happened to them!” In times of distress and grief, we are quick to ask such questions. We protest the injustice of unfolding events. We ask the questions and demand answers. We challenge the wisdom of God and doubt his presence. We even accuse God of injustice or supply our own invented reasons to explain his unknown purposes: “I must have done something to deserve this. God must be punishing me.” We may try to strike a bargain with him to set things right again.

The Lord Jesus addressed similar questions and protests surrounding tragedies that took place in his own day (Luke 13:1-5). Under orders from the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, soldiers murdered Galilean pilgrims who had come to offer sacrifices at the temple in Jerusalem. The blood of the Galileans mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. In another local incident, a tower in Siloam, a neighborhood of Jerusalem, collapsed and killed eighteen people. The tragedies provoked questions we would recognize today. Were the murdered Galileans worse sinners than everyone else from Galilee? Were the victims in Siloam worse offenders than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? Why did those people die? What had they done to deserve such terrible deaths? Jesus’ answer to those questions was not the answer his listeners hoped to hear. But it was the answer they needed to hear. It is the answer that we need to hear.

Jesus said no, the Galilean pilgrims and the Siloam victims were not worse sinners or worse offenders than the rest of the people in Galilee or Jerusalem. But Jesus—perhaps frustrating his listeners, and us as well—gave no other explanation, no other reason, for those tragedies. Instead he raised the stakes of disaster, turning our attention from deadly earthly tragedies to an eternally deadly tragedy. Jesus said, “Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” It’s an eternal tragedy that awaits all of us—unless, Jesus says, we repent. Repentance is needed, not repentance from imagined sin that, according to our speculation, brought disaster on us, but true repentance, humble repentance, for real sin. We repent in true sorrow and cling to the promises of God in Christ, knowing that what awaits us is not eternal tragedy, but forgiveness won by the blood of our Savior and eternal joy in his presence. The Lord Jesus took onto himself the eternal tragedy, the devastating disaster that was the judgment of God against

- The **Closing Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Magdalen LM and refrain:

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
No merit of my own I claim but wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant and blood support me in the raging flood;  
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,  
Clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before his throne!  
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