

### Preaching Dates

**Sunday 5 April 2020**

**David Andrew** (am) has pre-recorded a sermon for Tillicoultry Baptist Church

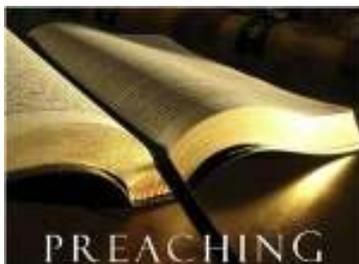
**Glen Cartwright** (am) at Fusion, Newton Mearns Baptist Church using GoVoke app.

**Stephen Ilett** (am) will be providing, via email, a written sermon and prayers for Dingwall Baptist Church

**Jackie Macdonald** (am) will be Live Streaming at Sheddocksley Baptist Church

**Dawn Martindale** (am) using a pre-recorded YouTube video for Palm Sunday at Rosyth Baptist Church

**Willem Smit** (am) via a pre-recorded online sermon for Lossiemouth Baptist Church



**“Faith in the midst of the storm”**

**By Jacob Dunn**

***He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” (Mark 4:40, ESV)***

This question occurs at the end of a familiar passage. Having finished teaching for the day, Jesus and his disciples get into a boat to cross to the other side of the lake. A fierce storm rises, and the disciples are afraid for their lives, but Jesus is asleep in the back of the boat. They wake him up, asking if He cares about the danger they are in, and with a single command Jesus causes the storm to stop. Jesus then answers the disciples with a question of His own, chiding them for their lack of faith.

This passage provides a powerful challenge to our fear. The disciples were fishermen, used to navigating the waters and weathering storms. A storm strong enough to arouse such fear in experienced sailors must have been fierce indeed. Yet Jesus is asleep in the back of the boat, displaying a confident lack of concern for the situation, and when they wake Him, the disciples' words give a sense of their despair, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" The response of the disciples is very relatable for us. Though they had already been with Jesus for some time and seen Him perform many miracles, they still find it hard to fully trust Him. Often it is the same with us, no matter how long we walk with God, we still find it hard to trust Him when a storm comes along. The world is fallen and broken, and even believers are bound to experience illness, financial struggles and relationship breakdown. These things can make us afraid. Jesus question to us is the same as His question to the disciples; "Have you still no faith?" Jesus contrasts faith with fear in order to show that, if He is with us, we have no reason to be afraid.

In our current strange and challenging times, things appear outside our control. It may feel like we are in the midst of a storm at sea with no sight of shore. But our Lord is not absent from this situation. He hears us when we call on Him, and He answers. The one who calmed the storm is still our saviour now. We can rest in the knowledge that He is with us, and His presence is our comfort and hope.