

The West End Herald

Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC



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March 1, 2026

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Jesus Allays a Storm

from Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible



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Matthew 8:23–27

23 And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. 24 And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. 25 And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." 26 And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

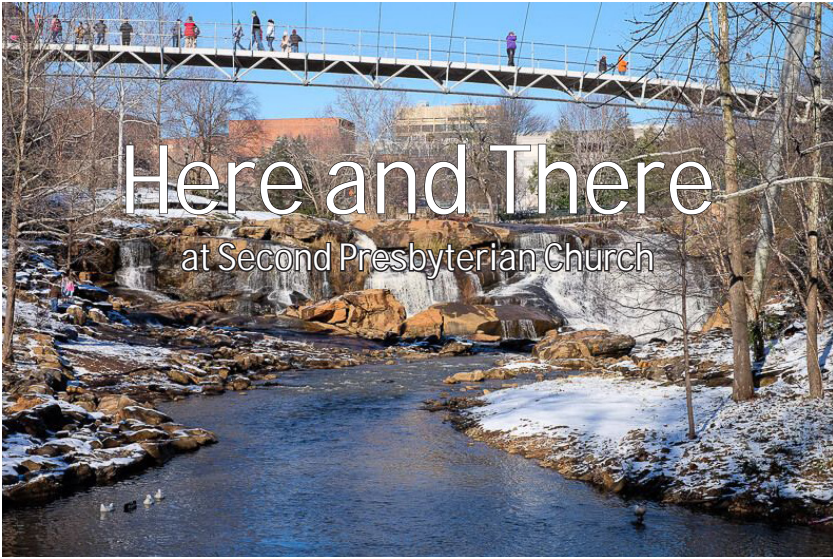
Christ had given sailing orders to his disciples (v. 18), that they should depart to the other side of the sea of Tiberias, into the country of Gadara, in the tribe of Gad, which lay east of Jordan; thither he would go to rescue a poor creature that was possessed with a legion of devils, though he foresaw how he should be affronted there. Now. ① He chose to go by water. It had not been much about, if he had gone by land; but he chose to cross the lake, that he might have occasion to manifest himself the God of the sea as well as of the dry land, and to show that all power is his, both in heaven and in earth. It is a comfort to those who go down to the sea in ships, and are often in perils there, to reflect that they have a Saviour to trust in, and pray to, who knows what it is to be at sea, and to be in storms there. But observe, when he went to sea, he had no yacht or pleasure-boat to attend him, but made use of his disciples' fishing-boats; so poorly was he

accommodated in all respects. ② His disciples followed him; the twelve kept close to him, when others staid behind upon the terra firma, where there was sure footing. Note, They, and they only, will be found the true disciples of Christ, that are willing to go to sea with him, to follow him into dangers and difficulties. Many would be content to go the land-way to heaven, that will rather stand still, or go back, than venture upon a dangerous sea; but those that would rest with Christ hereafter must follow him now wherever he leads them, into a ship or into a prison, as well as into a palace. Now observe here,

I. The peril and perplexity of the disciples in this voyage; and in this appeared the truth of what Christ had just now said, that those who follow him must count upon difficulties, v. 20.

① There arose a very great storm, v. 24. Christ could have prevented this storm, and have ordered them a pleasant passage, but that would

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Spring Showers

Ladies, mark your calendars for two spring bridal showers:

Brice Pratt & Natalie Weaver

Saturday, April 18, beginning at 10:00 A.M. (*Fellowship Hall*)

Registry: theknot.com/nataliebrice

Alex Roten & Paola Perez

Saturday, May 30, beginning at 10:00 A.M. (*Fellowship Hall*)

Friday Night Alive

College and 20s are invited for Friday Night Alive on SUNDAY, March 8. We will gather for lunch after the morning worship service at the home of Pastor Phillips and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship. Lunch will be provided. Please R.S.V.P. to Sharon Phillips by March 5.

Church Bookstore

Located opposite the church library, our bookstore has been restocked and is ready for customers! A list of prices and a payment box is located by the window.



Ladies, be sure to register before March 3!

Join the ladies from SPC at our annual Spring Retreat!

(One Day Only)

Saturday, March 14, 2026

11:00 A.M.—8:00 P.M.

Equipped for Calm

Self-control through
Biblical Discernment
and Faith in Action

featuring

Kerry Anderson

Wife, Mother,
Ladies Bible Teacher,
Podcast Host,
Occasional Blog Author,
Ladies Conference Speaker



**For God gave us a spirit not of fear
but of power and love and self-control.**

2 Timothy 1:7

Women of all ages (high school+) will enjoy a day of Bible teaching, hymns, prayer, games, fellowship, and more.

REGISTRATION

Opens late January
EARLY BIRD RATE: \$50
(through Feb. 15)

LATE REGISTRATION: \$60
(Feb. 16–Mar. 3)
Registration closes March 3.

Lunch & Dinner are included.
Scholarships may be available.

For more information and
to register:
spcgreenville.org/WIC-Retreat

Contact Gerilyn McGaughran with
any questions.



Gaines Lodge at Table Rock State Park
233 Table Rock State Park Road, Pickens, SC

Daylight Saving Time

Be sure to turn your clocks **AHEAD** one hour
before going to bed on Saturday, March 7!





at the corner of

River & Rhett

MISSIONS CONFERENCE



Wednesday night
Rev. José Barriga



Saturday, Ladies Tea
Mrs. Lisa Ryken



SPC Missions Committee



Sunday AM, Dr. Philip Ryken



Sunday PM, Rev. José Barriga



March Birthdays



1 Maggie Mae Billingsley, Katy Jones

2 Johnny Mann, Naomi Scott

3 Emily Davis, Jan Hu, Mike Sworin

4 Finn Davis, Richard Tabb

5 John Economidis, Larry Guy, Christine Korol,
David Leang, Jack Tabb

6 Callie Hoopes

7 Adoniram O'Donald, Jean Pennington,
Colin Weaver

This Week

MORNING SERMON

Dr. Richard D. Phillips

THE GREAT EXCHANGE
2 Corinthians 5:21

EVENING SERMON

Dr. Richard D. Phillips

WHY THE CHURCH IS PERSECUTED
Acts 19:21-41

Sunday, March 1

- 8:30 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
- 9:55 A.M. Children's Chapel (*Sanctuary*)
- 10:00 A.M. Children/Youth/Adults Sunday School
- 10:00 A.M. Membership Class (*Room C-209*)
- 11:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
- 5:00 P.M. Finance Committee (*Conference Room*)
- 5:00 P.M. Communicants Class (*Fellowship Hall*)
- 5:30 P.M. Season of Prayer (*Chapel*)
- 6:00 P.M. EVENING WORSHIP

Monday, March 2

- 6:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study (*Fellowship Hall*)
- 6:00 P.M. Diaconate Meeting (*Conference Room*)

Wednesday, March 4

- 5:00 P.M. Pastoral Care Committee (*Office Work Room*)
- 5:15 P.M. WIC Council (*Conference Room*)
- 5:30 P.M. FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER (*Gym*)
- 6:30 P.M. Sports Banquet Program (*Gym*)
- 7:30 P.M. Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 5

- 9:30 A.M. Precepts Bible Study (*Conference Room*)

Friday, March 6

- 9:15 A.M. Raising Up Mothers (*Fellowship Hall*)
- 12:00 P.M. Men's Luncheon and Bible Study (*Gym*)
- 1:30 P.M. Mission to Main (*Conference Room*)

Saturday, March 7

- 10:00 A.M. O'Shields Baby Shower (*Fellowship Hall*)
- 7:00 P.M. English Country Dancing

Men of the Covenant

Men (9th grade and above) will be having a breakfast and teaching time on Saturday, February 28, beginning at 8:00 A.M. Men are asked to bring breakfast items to share.

Don't forget...

not have been so much for his glory and the confirmation of their faith as their deliverance was: this storm was for their sakes, as John 11:4. One would have expected, that having Christ with them, they should have had a very favourable gale, but it is quite otherwise; for Christ would show that they who are passing with him over the ocean of this world to the other side, must expect storms by the way. The church is tossed with tempests (Isa 54:11); it is only the upper region that enjoys a perpetual calm, this lower one is ever and anon disturbed and disturbing.

② Jesus Christ was asleep in this storm. We never read of Christ's sleeping but at this time; he was in watchings often, and continued all night in prayer to God: this was a sleep, not of security, like Jonah's in a storm, but of holy serenity, and dependence upon his Father: he slept to show that he was really and truly man, and subject to the sinless infirmities of our nature: his work made him weary and sleepy, and he had no guilt, no fear within, to disturb his repose. Those that can lay their heads upon the pillow of a clear conscience, may sleep quietly and sweetly in a storm (Ps 4:8), as Peter, Acts 12:6. He slept at this time, to try the faith of his disciples, whether they could trust him when he seemed to slight them. He slept not so much with a desire to be refreshed, as with a design to be awaked.



③ The poor disciples, though used to the sea, were in a great fright, and in their fear came to their Master, v. 25. Whither else should they go? It was well they had him so near them. They awoke him with their prayers; Lord, save us, we perish. Note, They who would learn to pray must go to sea. Imminent and sensible dangers will drive people to him who alone can help in time of need. Their prayer has life in it, Lord, save us, we perish. (1.) Their petition is, Lord, save us. They believed he could save them; they begged he would, Christ's errand into the world was to save, but those only shall be saved that call on the name of the Lord, Acts 2:21. They who by faith are interested in the eternal salvation wrought out by Christ, may with a humble confidence apply themselves to him for temporal deliverances. Observe, They call him, Lord, and then pray, Save us. Note, Christ will save none but those that are willing to take

Announcements

Sports Banquet

On Wednesday, March 4, plan to come for our fellowship supper at 5:30 p.m. and then enjoy a special time of recognition for our four basketball teams and their coaches. There will be no children's/youth choirs or catechism classes that evening.

Communicants Class

Second Presbyterian Church is offering a communicants class for children who are ready to become communing members of SPC upon their own profession of faith in the Lord Jesus. The class focuses on questions such as who is Jesus, what is a Christian, and what does it mean to be a communing church member. There is no age requirement but the standard age for this class is late elementary school through middle school. Classes meet on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and are taught by Kevin Mobley and Pastor Jeffrey Early.

Baby Shower

All ladies are invited to a baby shower for Connor and Ashley O'Shields on Saturday, March 7, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Ashley is due on March 25 and is expecting a boy! Ashley is registered here: <https://my.babylist.com/ashley-o-shields>.

Raising Up Mothers

This important ministry to mothers is in need of your helping hands to assist our Training Up Children (TUC) ministry team. TUC provides care for children while mothers meet on Friday mornings. Please contact Ellen Musco for more information and to sign up.

Men Volunteers

Help make the WIC Spring Retreat an extra special time for the SPC Ladies. We are needing a few good men to cover some volunteer shifts on Saturday, March 14, at the Gaines Lodge in Table Rock State Park, Pickens, SC. Details and sign-up can be found at spcgreenville.org/signup. Contact Deborah Lichtenfelt for more information.

him for their Lord; for he is a Prince and a Saviour. (2.) Their plea is, We perish; which was, [1.] The language of their fear; they looked upon their case as desperate, and gave up all for lost; they had received a sentence of death within themselves, and this they plead, "We perish, if thou dost not save us; look upon us therefore with pity." [2.] It was the language of their fervency; they pray as men in earnest, that beg for their lives; it becomes us thus to strive and wrestle in prayer; therefore Christ slept, that he might draw out this importunity.

II. The power and grace of Jesus Christ put forth for their succour: then the Lord Jesus awaked, as one refreshed, Ps 78:65. Christ may sleep when his church is in a storm, but he will not outsleep himself: the time, the set time to favour his distressed church, will come, Ps 102:13.

① He rebuked the disciples (v. 26); Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? He does not chide them for disturbing him with their prayers, but for disturbing themselves with their fears. Christ reproved them first, and then delivered them; this is his method, to prepare us for a mercy, and then to give it us. Observe, (1.) His dislike of their fears; "Why are ye fearful? Ye, my disciples? Let the sinners in Zion be afraid, let heathen mariners tremble in a storm, but you shall not be so. Enquire into the reasons of your fear, and weigh them." (2.) His discovery of the cause and spring of their fears; O ye of little faith. Many that have true faith are weak in it, and it does but little. Note, [1.] Christ's disciples are apt to be disquieted with fears in a stormy day, to torment themselves with jealousies that things are bad with them, and dismal conclusions that they will be worse. [2.] The prevalence of our inordinate fears in a stormy day is owing to the weakness of our faith, which would be as an anchor to the soul, and would ply the oar of prayer. By faith we might see through the storm to the quiet shore, and encourage ourselves with hope that we shall weather our point. [3.] The fearfulness of Christ's disciples in a storm, and their unbelief, the cause of it, are very displeasing to the Lord Jesus, for they reflect dishonour upon him, and create disturbance to themselves.

② He rebukes the wind; the former he did as the God of grace, and the Sovereign of the heart, who can do what he pleases in us; this he did as the God of nature, the Sovereign of the world, who can do what he

pleases for us. It is the same power that stills the noise of the sea, and the tumult of fear, Ps 65:7. See, (1.) How easily this was done, with a word's speaking. Moses commanded the waters with a rod; Joshua, with the ark of the covenant; Elisha, with the prophet's mantle; but Christ with a word. See his absolute dominion over all the creatures, which bespeaks both his honour, and the happiness of those that have him on their side. (2.) How effectually it was done? There was a great calm, all of a sudden. Ordinarily, after a storm, there is such a fret of the waters, that it is a good while ere they can settle; but if Christ speak the word, not only the storm ceases, but all the effects of it, all the remains of it. Great storms of doubt, and fear in the soul, under the power of the spirit of bondage, sometimes end in a wonderful calm, created and spoken by the Spirit of adoption.

③ This excited their astonishment (v. 27); The men marvelled. They had been long acquainted with the sea, and never saw a storm so immediately turned into a perfect calm, in all their lives. It has all the marks and signatures of a miracle upon it; it is the Lord's doing, and is marvellous in their eyes. Observe, (1.) Their admiration of Christ; What manner of man is this! Note, Christ is a Nonsuch; every thing in him is admirable: none so wise, so mighty, so amiable, as he. (2.) The reason of it; Even the winds and the sea obey him. Upon this account, Christ is to be admired, that he has a commanding power even over winds and seas. Others pretended to cure diseases, but he only undertook to command the winds. We know not the way of the wind (John 3:8), much less can we control it; but he that bringeth forth the wind out of his treasury (Ps 135:7), when it is out, gathers it into his fists, Prov 30:4. He that can do this, can do any thing, can do enough to encourage our confidence and comfort in him, in the most stormy day, within or without, Isa 26:4. The Lord sits upon the floods, and is mightier than the noise of many waters. Christ, by commanding the seas, showed himself to be the same that made the world, when, at his rebuke, the waters fled (Ps 104:7, 8), as now, at his rebuke, they fell. ♦

Matthew Henry was a seventeenth century English Puritan Pastor. He is well-known for his *Commentary on the Whole Bible* and his book *A Method for Prayer*.

