

Sunday 9 August 2026

A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



Meeting God in the Storm

Matthew 14:22–33; 1 Kings 19:9–18

Life has a way of changing quickly. One moment everything seems clear, our faith feels strong, life is going exactly as we planned. Then suddenly we find ourselves in a storm, wondering where God is or almost forgetting about God and how we are going to get through it.

That is where we find Elijah and the disciples in our readings.

What makes their stories so striking is that both come immediately after moments of great victory. Elijah has just witnessed God answer with fire on Mount Carmel. After years of drought and the worship of a foreign god Baal spreading throughout Israel, God revealed that He alone is Lord. The prophets of Baal were defeated, and the people cried out, “The Lord, He is God!” Elijah thinks, surely Israel will turn back to God now.

The disciples have also witnessed an extraordinary miracle. Jesus has taken five loaves and two fish and fed more than five thousand people.

These moments felt like turning points.

But, almost immediately, both Elijah and the disciples find themselves in a storm.

God Meets Us in the Storm

Instead of Elijah's victory on Mount Carmel starting a revival, Queen Jezebel threatens to kill him. Instead of seeing the nation return to God, Elijah finds himself exhausted, afraid, running for his life and wondering if his ministry has made any difference.

The disciples experience something similar. After witnessing Jesus' miracle, they are sent onto the lake and struggle against strong winds and waves.

Their stories remind us that following God doesn't mean we will never face challenges. Sometimes we can be exactly where God has called us and still find ourselves struggling.

But in both stories, God doesn't abandon His people.

Sometimes God's presence is hidden or we take our mind off Him, but God is always there.

God speaks in unexpected ways

When Elijah reaches Mount Horeb (another name for Mount Sinai), he

comes to the place where Moses encountered God and where Israel received the covenant. Perhaps he expected another dramatic display of God's power. Instead, God comes in a still small voice, a gentle whisper. Elijah discovers that God isn't only found in spectacular moments. We often think that God doesn't speak to us but we have to be still to listen. God speaks in the quietness that renews weary hearts.

The disciples discover that God often meets us in ways we do not expect as well, but in a totally different way to Elijah. The disciples expected Jesus to rescue them one way, but He comes in a way that they could never have predicted, He comes to them walking across the water.

Keeping our eyes on Jesus

Peter reminds us that faith is not about never feeling afraid. It is about keeping our eyes on Jesus in the middle of fear. When Peter focuses on the wind and waves, he begins to sink. Yet Jesus immediately reaches out His hand.

That is grace.

It reminds us that Jesus doesn't abandon those who struggle. He restores them and calls them forward. The storm becomes the place where the disciples discover more deeply who Jesus is: “Truly you are the Son of God.” Sometimes the storms of life reveal things about God that comfort never could.

So what does this mean for us?

It means we shouldn't be surprised by the storms we face. Difficult seasons don't mean God has left us. It means we should listen for God's voice, even when He speaks quietly. And it means we should keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, trusting that His hand is always reaching toward us.

The God who met Elijah in his exhaustion and the disciples in their fear is the same God who meets us today.

He is with us in the storm.

He is still speaking.

And He is still faithful.

**Grace and peace
Rev. Aaron**

Acknowledgement of country

Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

Today's Bible Readings

1 Kings 19:9-18 & Matthew 14:22-33

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What's Happening This Week

Tuesday	Mainly Music 9.30am Book Club 1.30pm Church Council 7pm
Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am Fellowship Lunch 12 Noon
Thursday	Men's Bible Study 9am CWCI (KYB) 10am Evening Bible Study 6.30pm
Friday	Craft Club 9am

Church Roster

	Today	Next Sunday
Duty Elder	Robyn	Neil
Organist/Pianist	Audrey	Mel
Greeters	Hazel & Lynn	Sylvia & Nigel
Bible Readers	Lynn & Noah	Robyn & Lena
Prayers for Others	Joyce	Terryll
Morning Tea	Sylvia & Stephanie	Pat & Terryll
Hall Set Up	Nigel	Craft Club
Sound Room	Nathan	Ross
Cleaning	Helene & Lorraine	Craft Club

If you are unable to do your roster, **please organise a swap AND let Janice know ASAP.**

There Is Support Available

If you or someone you know is in need of help or support, please let us know and how we can help by calling either;

Rev. Aaron: 0411 325 527 or Your Pastoral Carer

Other upcoming events for your diary

Chaira Companions 16 August 1.30pm
Mainly Music 18 August 9.30am
TCCEA Prayer Meeting 18 August 4pm
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 19 August 9.30am
Pastoral Care Meeting 21 August 9.30am
Mini Market 22 August 8.30am
Craft Club 28 August 9am
Men's Breakfast 29 August 8am
Elders' Meeting 8 September 4pm
Fellowship Lunch 9 September 12 Noon
Fashion Parade 16 September 10.30am
Church Council Meeting 13 October 7pm

Fellowship Lunch

Everybody is welcome to join the "Happy Lunchers" at 12 noon on Wednesday 12 August in the "Secret Garden" South Tweed Sports Club for fellowship and lunch. RSVP to Janice by 10 August.

Mini Market

We have a number of people making jams, chutneys and relishes for the Mini Market. **They have asked if members of our congregation can please donate used clean 250gm to 295gm jars.** If you can help, please leave them on the table in the foyer as soon as possible.

Fred's Place

Many thanks to everyone who has so generously donated to this appeal – it is very much appreciated by Fred's Place. This Winter **they continue to welcome donations of blankets, jackets and socks. Canned and packaged foodstuffs would also be appreciated.** Please talk to Marshall if you have any queries.

Men's Breakfast

Meeting for breakfast at 8am on Saturday 29 August at The Driftwood Café, 29 Greenway Drive Tweed Heads South. All men are welcome.

Offerings

As the Body of Christ here at Banora Point, there are many ways we can contribute to Christ's ongoing mission. Volunteering in local community groups is one way we can be the presence of Christ sharing the Gospel in action in our community.

Another important way we can contribute to the mission of Christ at Banora Point Uniting Church is financially. The offering enables the Uniting Church to have a continued presence in Banora Point. It allows us to run our current outreach programs and will help us meet the changing needs of our local community in the future. Our offerings are received physically during the Worship Service every week, or, if you prefer you can choose to give electronically, directly into our account. You can do this by direct debit or at your local Commonwealth Bank branch. Please contact Shane Hambling if you need any assistance.

Banora Point Uniting Church Bank details are:

Account Name: The Uniting Church in Australia Banora Point Church (Note: Your Bank website may limit the number of characters you can put into the account name box so "The Uniting Church in Aust" is OK)

BSB No: 062 611 **Account No:** 10120762