

# WHERE DO WE LOOK FOR STABILITY IN A FRIGHTENING WORLD?

Isaiah 41:1-10

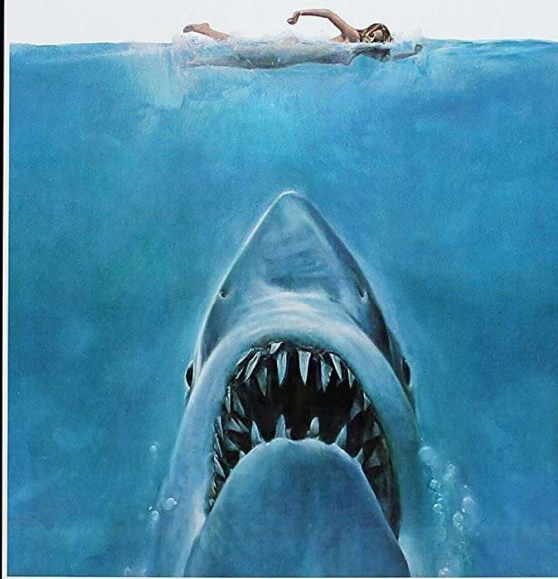
Slides from Dan Strange's sermon at the  
morning service, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026



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## An Approaching Menace

- “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?” <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. (Jn. 19:9-11).

## Trust in idols and you'll always be afraid

- 'There is a terrible vicious circle here as the one who believes their identity is a product of choice is the one most in need of a pre-fabricated identity. Idolatry and autonomy go together. Idols are shaky because they are created by shaky-selves.' (Chang)

Trust in the Lord and you'll never be afraid

- Israel my servant

- Jacob whom I have chosen

- Abraham my friend

Trust in the Lord and you'll be *rightly* afraid

- ‘You of little faith, why are you so fearful? In these words we must hear all the disappointment of Jesus Christ in his disciples and all his love for them. Do you still not know that you are in God’s hands, that where I am, God is? Why are you so fearful? Be of good courage, strong, firm, adult, sure, confident, not shaking with fear. Don’t hang your heads; don’t complain about what bad times these are . . . I am in the boat. And Christ is here, too, in the nave of this church. So why not hear him and believe him?’  
(Bonhoeffer)