



Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dear Friend in Christ,

How often do we sail through life and are doing just fine. Then a storm hits. Suddenly our world is thrown into panic. What do we do? Today, we will discover what Peter did when the storm came into his life. Maybe Peter will teach us that our experience with Jesus in the storm will be deeper and richer than we ever thought possible.

If you have not had the opportunity to join us for worship, I encourage you to do so this Sunday. The following phone numbers and links are the ones to dial between 10:15am and 10:30am. You can join in one of two ways:

By telephone (audio only)

1 (312) 626 6799

Meeting ID: 867 5713 3623

By video with computer, tablet, or smartphone – click the link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86757133623>

(if you need a live link you can go to the homepage of our website at www.vccbhm.org)

This Sunday may we focus on Jesus during the storm. He will not let us drown.

You are special to me. God Bless You, Edd

Valley Christian Church

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 9, 2020

PRELUDE

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: For people drowning in despair like Peter in the morning scripture.
People: Christ is the hope to rescue us.
Leader: For people grieving,
People: Christ is our comfort.
Leader: For people burdened,
People: Christ is our friend to share the load.
Leader: For people anxious,
People: Christ is our calm assurance.
Leader: For all people gathered in their homes,
People: Christ is with us. We are filled with His amazing grace.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Amazing Grace"

*Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear,
And Grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come.
'Tis Grace hath brought me safe thus far
And Grace will lead me home.*

INVOCATION

Surprising and persistent God, you never give up on us. You reach out to us with your grace when we are sinking in fear and failure. We cannot escape from your love for us, and only when we turn to you, do we find the sweetness of life and the reason for living. Thank you for your amazing grace that comforts us and renews us. Give us hearts of gratitude, and forever let us sing your praise. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 14:22-33

MEDITATION

"Peter and the Storm"
See Insert for Meditation

HYMN

"He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!"

*He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me
His faithful foll'wer I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.*

*Lord, I would place my hand in thine,
nor ever murmur nor repine;
by waters still, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis thy hand that leadeth me.
He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me
His faithful foll'wer I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.*

*And when my task on earth is done,
When by Thy grace the vict'ry's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me.
He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me
His faithful foll'wer I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.*

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

God of the wind that sweeps over our lives, we thank you for the wind of the Holy Spirit. We thank you that by the power at work in us, you are able to accomplish far more than all we can ask or imagine. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you call us in grace and mercy. That you help our unbelief. That you empower us to be your people and your church. May we, as your people, lead a life worthy of the calling to which we have been called. Never let us be far from the love we find in you. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

**CALL TO
COMMUNION**

A bit of bread and a bit of wine, a small blessing that lifts up the power of the Holy Spirit.

**COMMUNION
HYMN**

"When You Do This, Remember Me"

*You my friend, a stranger once,
do now belong to heaven.*

*Once far away, you are brought home
into God's family.*

When you do this, remember me.

*So let us renew our faith,
remembering our Lord;*

*to our strong hope we will hold fast,
unshaken to the end.*

When you do this, remember me.

**COMMUNION
PRAYER**

Pray together the Lord's Prayer

**HOLY
COMMUNION**

Partake of the holy communion
(Bread, juice or whatever is available to you)

**WORDS OF
INSTITUTION**

Hear the words of Jesus when he said, "Take eat and take drink."

**SHARING OUR
OFFERING
WITH GOD**

Share your church offering with the church by mail or bring it by the church office. Thank you for your love gifts.

**OFFERTORY
PRAYER**

We honor you, O gracious God. Accept these gifts we pray, as a sign of our obedience to you, our love for you, and our desire to take your reign into the world. Transform our gifts into your blessings for others. Amen.

BENEDICTION

And now, we leave with the wind of God blowing at our backs. It is a nudging wind that pushes us toward a world in despair. May the holy wind of God blow us into the world with His message of hope in Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Be still,
and know
that
I am God.*

PSALM 46:10

MEDITATION
Sunday, August 9, 2020

“Peter and the Storm”

In the morning scripture, Jesus has just finished feeding the multitude with the five loaves and two fish. He sends the crowd away. He also sends the disciples away by boat on the Sea of Galilee. Then Jesus goes by Himself up on a mountain to pray.

Now the disciples are out on the Sea of Galilee without Him. All of a sudden the winds come up from out of nowhere and stir up the water on the sea. The disciples in their small boat are tossed about by the waves in the storm. They are scared as they cling to the boat, bouncing in the violent waves.

Jesus sees them from the mountaintop where He is praying. He leaves and goes straight to them, walking on the surface of the sea. He comes to them through the storm, through all the wind and all the chaos. That is the way He comes to us. He comes sometimes when we least expect Him and most need Him. He comes in the power of the storm.

So Jesus comes to them walking on the water in the darkness of night. What are the disciples to think when in the darkness suddenly there is a vision in front of them of a figure walking on the high seas. They scream that it is a ghost. Jesus says to them, “It is I, do not be afraid”. Then Peter says, “Lord, if it is you, call me to come to you on the water”. Jesus says, “Come”, and Peter too walks on the water for a moment, but then he takes his eyes off of Jesus. Fear takes over and Peter begins to sink.

A little girl was very excited because her father was going to take her to see the movie, Snow White. Someone asked the little girl, “But won’t you be scared of the wicked witch?” “No”, the little girl said, “When the witch comes on, I won’t
(over)

look at her. I will just look at my father!” That is the way it works. When we fix our eyes on Christ, we can do incredible things. This is the good news that Peter and all of us need to learn.

Well, back to the story, Peter cries, “Lord save me.” Jesus does not say, “Get away from me, you unbeliever!” No, the scripture says, “Immediately, he reached out His hand and caught him.” We live in a time of the storms of virus and violence. We like Peter have come out on the water and in seeing the fury of the storms, we have begun to sink. We call out, “Lord save us”. We know He is close by, even in our darkest hour, and the Lord reaches over and pulls us out and the storm stops, the winds stop, and there is calm. We feel the eternal peace of God.

Now in summary three lessons come to us from this story. First, even though we frequently take our eyes off of Christ, He never takes His eyes off of us. We are constantly in His thoughts and His vision. He knows when we are in trouble and when we are in need.

Second, we are not saved because Christ possesses the power to walk on water, but because Christ possesses the love that reaches out and lifts us out of our “waters of distress”.

Third, and certainly the greatest lesson of all – Jesus comes to us! This truth shines forth in this story in that during the storm, “He came to them”. This is the glorious good news of the gospel of grace. God comes to us in Christ Jesus.

This is the overwhelming message of this miracle of Jesus walking on the water. He comes to us. This is our hope. In every hour of trouble and need, God through Jesus comes to us. No obstacle is too great, no storm too strong, no wall is too high, no barrier too wide, no pit too deep, no door too firmly locked to keep him out. As He came walking on the water to His disciples, so He will come to us walking on the waters of our personal storms. And we shall shout out in joy. “I knew you would come”.