

WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday February 25th

Lent: Sanctified Art, Wandering Heart

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*SONG OF WELCOME Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing UMH 400

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters,

the courageous and the fearful,

the hungry and the hopeful,

the impatient and the reserved.

God welcomes the young and the old,

the poets and the prophets,

the faithful and the tired,

the curious and the convicted.

Wherever you are on your journey, wherever your boat is at sea,

there is room for all to gather here.

This is God's house.

Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.

CALL TO CONFESSION (Liturgist)

In our scripture passage for today, Peter is out on a boat with the disciples when a storm hits. Instead of cowering in fear, Peter spots Jesus on the water and bravely crawls out of the boat to move closer to Christ.

Friends, I think the prayer of confession is one way that we do the same; it's one way that we can crawl out of our boats.

And here's what I mean: In the prayer of confession, we are honest about the storms that rage within and around us.

In this prayer, we speak with honesty in an effort to move closer to God.

This is our moment to crawl out of the boat.

So friends, let's be like Peter.

Join me in being courageous.

Join me in truth-telling.

Join me in prayer.

It's time to get our feet wet.

Let us pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God,

There are days that threaten to swallow us,

days when the storms of life feel too big.

In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear,

spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you.

Forgive us for doubting ourselves.

Forgive us for doubting you.

Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us.

With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (Liturgist)

Family of faith,

You could get out of the boat and walk on water like Peter,
or fall to your knees and stay in one place.

No matter what you do,

Christ's love for you is unchanging.

Fearful or brave, faithful or doubting,

Christ is always walking toward you.

So hear and believe this good news:

God's love is stronger than any storms.

On our best days, and on our worst days, we are seen, forgiven, and loved.

God is always walking toward you.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER Do Lord

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Bret Johnson

ANTHEM: Where No One Stands Alone, by Mosie Lister, arr. by Keith Phillips

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (pastor)

Holy God, There are days where the wind is loud. There are days where the rain tears through the trees and the storms of life beg for our attention. So just as you stilled the wind and the sea, still our wandering hearts. Quiet our restless minds. Reach out your hand to us and pull us into your Word so that we might hear, really hear, your message to us today. With one foot out of the boat, we pray, amen.

LESSON I **PSALM 22:23-31 CEB**

All of you who revere the Lord—praise him!

All of you who are Jacob's descendants—honor him!

**All of you who are all Israel's offspring—
stand in awe of him!**

²⁴ **Because he didn't despise or detest
the suffering of the one who suffered—
he didn't hide his face from me.**

No, he listened when I cried out to him for help.

²⁵ **I offer praise in the great congregation
because of you;
I will fulfill my promises**

in the presence of those who honor God.

²⁶ Let all those who are suffering eat and be full!

Let all who seek the Lord praise him!

I pray your hearts live forever!

²⁷ Every part of the earth

will remember and come back to the Lord;

every family among all the nations will worship you.

²⁸ Because the right to rule belongs to the Lord,

he rules all nations.

²⁹ Indeed, all the earth's powerful

will worship him;

all who are descending to the dust

will kneel before him;

my being also lives for him.

³⁰ Future descendants will serve him;

generations to come will be told about my Lord.

³¹ They will proclaim God's righteousness

to those not yet born,

telling them what God has done.

May God add a Blessing to this reading.

***LESSON 2: MATTHEW 14:22-33 CEB**

²² Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone. ²⁴ Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. ²⁵ Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed.

²⁷ Just then Jesus spoke to them, “Be encouraged! It’s me. Don’t be afraid.”

²⁸ Peter replied, “Lord, if it’s you, order me to come to you on the water.”

²⁹ And Jesus said, “Come.”

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, “Lord, rescue me!”

³¹ Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, “You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?” ³² When they got into the boat, the wind settled down.

³³ Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, “You must be God’s Son!”

This is the Word of God for all people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE Rescue Me from Danger

*HYMN “Into the Waters” Strickland/ Crüger (Sanctified Art)

TIME OF PRAYER

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYER (MUSIC)

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God,
giver of every good and perfect gift,
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,
that we may praise you not with our words only,
but with our whole lives. Amen.

HYMN

TFWS 2264 Come to the Table

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in a God who moves toward me when storms rage.
I believe in a God who invites me to be brave.
I believe in a God whom the wind and waves obey.
I believe in a God who knows my name.
I believe in a God of love.
I am not afraid. Amen.

*BENEDICTION and RESPONSE

TFWS 2138 Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes

POSTLUDE