



Sunday, February 25, 2024

I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

Psalms 34:4-8 (NIV)

Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Matthew 14:22-33 (NIV)

- *CONNECTING YOU WITH CHRIST AND COMMUNITY* -

Greeters: Coralie Werking & Stan Jacobs, Sandy & John Wolfe, Glenda Burross, Pam McCartney

Ushers: Randy Heller, Gary & Sandy Cross, Nancy Holtzapple

The Chancel Flowers are Presented By:
Deb & Eric Peterson, in honor of their parents

Gathering in God's Name

Chimes

Prelude

Welcome & Ministry Highlights

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

*Please sign and pass the "Friendship Pad" down the pew.
At the end of the row, pass it back so that we can greet one another by name after the service.*

Health and Hope Presentation

Connie Hoelscher

* Call to Worship

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Leader: God welcomes the faithful and the doubters,

People: the courageous and the fearful.

Leader: God welcomes the young and the old,

People: the poets and the prophets, the curious and the convicted.

Leader: Wherever you are on your journey,

People: wherever your boat is at sea,

Leader: there is room for all to gather here.

People: This is God's house.

All: Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.

* Opening Hymn

"O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"

Proclaiming God's Word

Call to Confession

Will Massey

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. 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 draw 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. Let us pray together:

Prayer of Confession

Will Massey

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.

Kyrie Eleison 572

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

Will Massey

Leader: Family of faith, You could get out of the boat and walk on water like Peter, or stay in the boat like the rest of the disciples. No matter what you do, Christ's love for you is unchanging. Fearful or brave, faithful or doubting, Christ is always with you wherever you are. 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. Thanks be to God! Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Passing of the Peace

Will Massey

Leader: As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to one another. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

* Gloria Patri 579

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

*At this time, children through 4th grade are invited to attend Sunday School. Teachers are stationed at the main doors of the sanctuary and will walk the children to the children's classrooms in the Narthex.
Parents/Guardians may pick up their children after the service in the classroom.*

Anthem

"Give Me Jesus"

arr. L.L. Fleming

Scripture Readings

Psalms 34:4-8, Matthew 14:22-33

Message

"Rescue Me From Danger"

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Responding to God's Word

Prayers of the People, Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

Wooden offering boxes are located in the narthex

Going in God's Name

* Closing Hymn #404

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Annual Meeting of the Corporation

* Charge and Benediction

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

*Congregational Response

**Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
interposed His precious blood.**

Postlude

*PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT

MUSIC: DR. PAUL THORLAKSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

JONATHAN LEFEVER, ORGANIST

A/V: MARK ANDERSON & KEN OSBORNE

A description of the stained Chancel window can be found in the front of the hymnal.
FM sound devices are available. Please ask an usher for your own personal receiver.

Cell Phones should be silenced during the worship service.

Video Recordings of the service can be found on the Highland website at www.HighlandPC.org

In the event of an emergency, please refer to the card in the pew racks for evacuation and re-assembly information.