



Sunday, August 9, 2020

Video Worship Service

Words of Welcome & Announcements ~ Jan Richardson

Candle Lighting & Centring: “No other plans. A story”

*Upon Jesus’ arrival in heaven, a vast host of angels greeted him.
After the formalities, they asked him whom he had left behind on earth
to finish the work he had begun.*

Jesus replied, ‘Just a small group of men and women who love me.’

‘What if this tiny group should fail?’

Jesus replied: ‘I have no other plans.’ By Wm J Bausch. A world of stories/336-37.

Opening Prayer:

God of Presence,

**as you walked upon the water to meet the disciples,
meet us in the midst of the storms in our lives.**

God of Renewal,

**as you lifted Peter from the water,
lift us from despair to hope,
from distraction to focus,
from death to life.**

God of the Journey,

**direct us in your way,
work out your purpose in and through our lives.**

We pray in the name of Christ who lives and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Written by the Rev. Dr. Bob Gross, OCC, designated minister at First Congregational Church of Akron, OH.

Hymn: Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore #563 VU

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A Reading from Matthew 14:22-33 *(Inclusive Text)*

Between the feeding of the 5,000+ and a brief episode of healing, Matthew’s gospel gives us an interlude of fear and wonder accompanied by chaos and impetuosity in the lives of Jesus’ closest followers. Bring on the Tums! This kind of discipleship can truly make the average disciple “see” sick and world weary.

Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away.

After sending the crowds away, Jesus went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was baffling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind.

In the fourth watch of the night Jesus went toward them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw Jesus walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear.

But at once Jesus called out to them, saying 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.'

It was Peter who answered,
 'If it is really you, tell me to come to you across the water.'

'Come' said Jesus.

Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as Peter felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink.

'Save me!' he cried.

Jesus put out his hand at once and held him.

'You of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?'

And as they got into the boat the wind dropped.

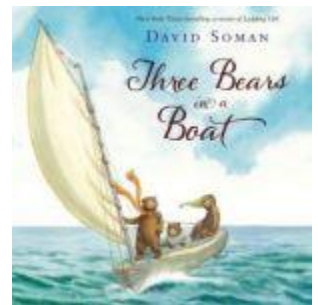
Those in the boat bowed down before Jesus and said,
 'Truly, you are the Begotten of God.'

Sung Response: *Don't Be Afraid* #90 MV

Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1995 French trans. David Fines, 2005 Music: John L. Bell, 1995 Words and music copyright © 1995, 2007 by WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., excl. N. American agent.

Congregational Theme/Story Time ~ *Three Bears in a Boat: an epic adventure on the high seas*, by David Soman. <https://youtu.be/yZZanJppjv8> *with closed caption**

Comment: Theo, Dash and Charlie set off on a boat venture to replace their mom's blue seashell that they broke during an accident. While out the encounter interesting people, places and events on the seas and on islands. It's only when they return home, after a storm on the boat, that they find the desired seashell and offer it to their mom who accepts it and forgives them, hoping they've also learned from this experience.



Hymn: *Precious Lord, Take my Hand*, #670 VU

Sung by Jan & Bob Richardson, with guitar accompaniment

Words: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932.

Music: George N. Allen, 1844; adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932. © Unichappell Music Inc. Used with the permission of OneLicence.net Annual Renewal A-605521

Prayers of Intercession:

Joyce: Gracious God, you have called us to be a people of prayer— to continue the ministry of intercession handed on to us by Jesus. And so we come before You with confidence, bringing our prayers for the world You love.

God, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Sue: We pray for those who, like Jesus' disciples, find themselves surrounded by high winds and stormy seas; those who feel overwhelmed by events and circumstances— the loss of a job; the death of a loved one; serious accident or illness; chronic pain; depression; or divorce— and who don't know where to turn.

God, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Joyce: We pray for those who, like Joseph, sold into slavery, find themselves deeply wounded by people they love— people they thought they knew and trusted— and who are struggling to know how to respond.

God, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Sue: We pray for those who, like Peter, the disciple, who are experiencing a crisis of faith; who long to whole-heartedly trust in God but are held back by questions and doubts.

God, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Joyce: We pray for those who, like the prophet Elijah, have fallen into despair; who have begun to doubt God's presence and power; or question God's call in their lives.

God, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Sue: We pray for those who, like Joseph, have had their hopes and dreams crushed; those whose lives have suddenly taken a different turn, and who now wonder what lies ahead for them.

God, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Joyce: Loving God, surely it is not Your will that any should suffer. We offer our prayers for all those who hunger and thirst, those who live in the midst of violence or poverty, and those who feel abandoned or ignored by the world around them.

God, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Sue: Through the life-giving power of Your Holy Spirit, make Your sustaining presence known to all who are in pain or need, so that they, too, may know Your love and live.

It is in Christ we pray.... and sing together now the Prayer Jesus Taught...

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/08/prayers-of-people-august-7-2011.html>

& The Prayer Jesus Taught, sung version, 959 VU

Music: David Haas © 1986 G.I.A. Publications, Inc Used with the permission of OneLicence.net Annual Renewal A-605521 *Sung/recorded by Emma Werbowesky as accompanied by Veronica Weber.*

Benediction: “*Blessing on the Waves*”, by Jan Richardson, author of *The Painted Prayerbook*

I cannot promise
that this blessing
will keep you afloat
as if by lashing these words

to your arms,
your ankles,
you could stop yourself
from going under.

The most this blessing
can do, perhaps,

is to stand beside you
in the boat,

place its hand
in the small of your back,
and push.

Be assured that
though this blessing
is eager to set you
in motion,
it will not
leave you forsaken,

will not compel you
to leap

where it has not already
stepped out.

These words
will go with you
across the waves.
These words
will accompany you
across the waters.

And if you
find yourself
flailing,
this blessing

will breathe itself
into you,
will breathe itself
through you
until you are
borne up
by the hands
that reach toward you,
the voice that
calls your name.

By Jan L. Richardson

<http://paintedprayerbook.com/2011/07/31/blessing-on-the-waves/#.U7Rq0vldWSo>

Closing Chorus: *I Have Called You by Your Name* #161 MV, verse 4

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**I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
Go and tell my precious people they are mine.**