



Jesus Calms the Storm, Good News Productions Int.

OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP, AUGUST 7, 2022
**NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

WESTWOOD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CINCINNATI, OH



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

Welcome and Announcements

[Please take a moment to silence all mobile devices and prepare for worship.]

Prelude: “Amazing Grace”—arr. Wilbur Held

Ringing of the Tower Bell

[Where indicated (*), those who are able are invited to stand.]*

*** Call to Worship (Responsive)**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

In the midst of life's storms, God is there.

What have we to fear?

In the darkness and terror, God is with us.

Of whom shall we be afraid?

Rise up, people of God, for you are loved and saved.

Thanks be to God who cares deeply for us.

Let us worship the God who loves us without condition.

Opening Prayer



Jesus Calms the Storm, bathtubbulletin.com

* **Hymn No. 281:** “*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*”

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, Feed me now and evermore;
Feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be Thou still my strength and shield.
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell’s destruction, land me safe on Canaan’s side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

Sovereign God, we listen to the stories of miracles and doubt that these things can happen today. We look at the waves of misfortune, distress, misery, distrust, and anger and wonder how we can still those waves. We feel the pressures of power and fear flooding into our lives, threatening to drown us and wonder where you are. Forgive us for the littleness of our faith. Forgive us for our doubts. Help us to place out trust in you, Lord Jesus. Help us to fix our eyes on you and on the ministries to which you have called us. For we ask these things in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

A Moment for Silent, Personal Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness (*Responsive*)

Fear not! God is with us, stilling the storms and raging fears in our lives. Place your trust in God always, knowing that in Jesus Christ, ours sins are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

May the peace of Christ be with you now, and forevermore!

And also with you!

* **Response: Gloria Patri** (*Unison*)

**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, amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS



August WestFed Food Pantry needs: Cereal, canned vegetables (beans, peas, etc.)



Flowers are given this week:

- ♥ By Rhonda & Paul Boddy to celebrate their 29th wedding anniversary and in loving memory of Rhonda’s father and brother, Charles and Mark Jackson.
- ♥ To the Glory of God.



Prayers are requested for:

- ♥ Bob and Cindy Robertson, friends of Pastor Jeff and Jane.
- ♥ Eileen Rothhaas, with health concerns.
- ♥ Joe Dearwester, continuing health issues.
- ♥ Greg Vails, recovering from surgery.
- ♥ John Schickner, recovering from COVID, at Shawneespring in Harrison.
- ♥ Wendy’s former student, Nick, battling with cancer.
- ♥ Cathie and Larry DeFazio, dealing with on-going health issues.
- ♥ Linda Kugele who continues to deal with breathing issues.
- ♥ Our homebound members and friends.
- ♥ Our Scouting units, their families and leaders.
- ♥ Our Session, our committees, and the discernment team.
- ♥ Our partnership with City Gosel Mission’s Princesses Ballet.



WELCOME BETH! Today, we welcome Ruling Elder Beth Doebereiner to our pulpit. As a member of Montgomery PC, she serves as treasurer and just completed six years on Session. As a graduate of the Ruling Elder Preaching Institute of the Presbytery, an experience she highly recommends, she was prepared to preach monthly during 2020 when MPC was without a Pastor.

She volunteers at Operation GiveBack, an organization that provides tutoring to children from grades 1-8, has a food pantry, provides backpacks/school supplies, providing Christmas to over 500 children. She hosts a Whiz Kids site for reading tutoring for whom she is a Spiritual Leader—providing the children with the only exposure they have to God and Jesus. Her favorite time is my weekly meeting with three church friends where we practice listening to God and one another, study books on faith and practice contemplative prayer. She, her husband Mike, and dog Bailey make frequent trips to the beach in Hilton Head to visit her sister—she counts that as a blessing! She thanks us for inviting her to share this time with you today.

MOMENT FOR MEDITATION: JESUS CALMS THE STORM

The story of Jesus calming the storm is found in Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, and Luke 8:22-25. There is a lot within this story that we can learn and apply to our own lives. Why is Jesus calming the storm important? The story of Jesus calming the storms shows us God is with us even when we do not realize it. Jesus is in control. He is with us in the storms.

The disciples choose fear before they choose faith, but today we have the opportunity to choose faith over fear. Even in the small things in life we can have the assurance that God is in control. We can resonate with the disciples in this situation, there are moments we would have faith and not be worried, but there have all been times we choose fear over faith. There are many people today, including Christians who take the stance that the world is falling apart, and although it may be, we have hope in God. God is with us, even in the middle of a storm.

Since many of the disciples were fishermen, when the storm started they probably kept calm knowing what you do during a storm, it was when it got out of control, they figured they would die out there. In their moment of despair, Jesus came in and calmed the storm. Jesus asked the disciples where their faith was, but he worked a miracle despite their lack of faith.



God is working in our lives right now whether we know it or not. He has called us to him and is working in whatever occurs in our lives for good. We don't want to forget that God is there, and he does know all and have all power. He is in control even when everything seems out of control.

After reading what Jesus did for his disciples in the middle of a storm, we can be more confident that God will work in amazing ways in our life as well. When Jesus calms the storm in the New Testament, we are encouraged today that God is also with us in the middle of storms of life. Today, as disciples of Christ, we should also strive to spend time with God and grow in our relationship, and trust in Him.

~ Evelyn Oliver, justdisciple.com

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading: *Psalm 25—Prayer for Guidance and for Deliverance. Of David.*

¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. ² O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. ³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. ⁴ Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. ⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. ⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

⁸ Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. ⁹ He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way. ¹⁰ All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees. ¹¹ For your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my guilt, for it is great. ¹² Who are they who fear the Lord? He will teach them the way that they should choose.

¹³ They will abide in prosperity, and their children shall possess the land. ¹⁴ The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him, and he makes his covenant known to them. ¹⁵ My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. ¹⁷ Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress. ¹⁸ Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins. ¹⁹ Consider how many are my foes and with what violent hatred they hate me. ²⁰ O guard my life and deliver me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. ²¹ May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you. ²² Redeem Israel, O God, out of all its troubles.

Gospel Reading: *Mark 4:35-41—Jesus Stills a Storm.*

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, Jesus said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷ A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ And waking up, he rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Be silent! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" ⁴¹ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Sermon: “*Humility, Forgiveness and Love*”

Ruling Elder Beth Doebereiner

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Invitation to Stewardship

[No offering will be collected. Please place your offerings in the baskets located at the entrances to the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity—now and always!]

Offertory Prayer (Unison)

Lord, Giver of Life and Source of our Freedom, we are reminded that yours is “the earth in its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it.” We know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have and are and will be. Holy One, we understand that you call us to be the stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Offertory Solo: “*Lord, Make Me An Instrument*”—arr. Jonathan Willcocks.

Noelle Scheper, soprano

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

[During the prayer, everyone will have an opportunity to offer a joy or concern aloud. During the pause, feel free to call out the name of someone for whom prayer is requested, or briefly, a joy or concern on your heart. The prayer concludes with the 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 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.

BEARING GOD’S WORD INTO THE WORLD

* **Hymn No. 361 (vv. 1-2, 4) :** “*How Firm A Foundation*”

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
To you for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine-

Benediction

Postlude: “*Praeludium in C major*”—J. S. Bach

LEADING WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Ruling Elder Beth Doebereiner, *Guest Preacher*

Mary Bramlage, *Guest Organist*

Jason Dennison, *Videographer/Director of Technology*

Andy Patton, *Lay Worship Leader*

