

# Jesus Walks on the Water

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. Matthew 14:25 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 14:22-33 (NIV)



G E V E N I N G R P B C Y P O  
 S S C P Q N T S D U R O O A W  
 C I V D O U B T K O X A A M C  
 U D N W A L K I N G F F Y T E  
 O N E K G A X B Y A U Y S U O  
 S J D U K L A W C F Q N I T M  
 D L V H O Q L B O G A M Y P H  
 D Z O E I C O J U W Q N B L Z  
 D J Y F M M N O R V A J W N W  
 T K V W L I E A A D X T O Q A  
 I A W I N D M F G P V R E F V  
 F P S A V E U R E W S B A R E  
 V L A K E D Y A S P K Y Y S S  
 C Y O X H E Z I T U Z U A I K  
 R H A N D A N D Q Y N H W X H

EVENING	HAND	DOUBT	WAVES
COURAGE	AFRAID	SAVE	SINK
LAKE	WALKING	BOAT	WIND
PRAY	COME	WATER	ALONE

# OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP, AUGUST 13, 2023 WESTWOOD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

### Welcome and Announcements

### Moment for Mission

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

**Prelude:** "Day by Day and With Each Passing Moment"—arr. Anna Laura Page

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

### Ringling of the Tower Bell

### \* 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.**

God of Grace and Peace, we come to worship and praise you, and to rejoice in your tender mercy towards us.

**We come to worship and honor you, rejoicing in the wonder of forgiven sin.**

We come to praise and revere you, the One who enriches the lives of those whom you call, and the One who speaks peace into the hearts of all your faithful people.

**We come praying that your peace will embrace our own inner peace.**

We come in awe-filled reverence before you, Holy and Eternal One, praying that our minds and intellects are open to your guidance.

**We come praying that your truth and righteousness will embrace and bless us in our understanding of being in a right relationship with you.**

We come to praise you, praying that our inner being is open to you.

**We come to worship you, praying that our hearts are open to you.**

### Opening Prayer (*Leader only*)

\* **Hymn No. 482:** “*Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*”

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!  
Praise ye the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been granted in what He ordaineth?  
Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.  
Let the amen sound from His people again, gladly for aye we adore Him.

**Invitation to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession** (*Unison*)

**Almighty God, we are sinners, and your Word and our hearts confirm it. We have done things you have forbidden and left undone things you have commanded. We have not loved you with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**As judge of the whole earth you would be just to condemn us. Yet in your love you sent Christ to bear the guilt of our sin and suffer our punishment. To Him now we flee; forgive us for His sake, and by your Spirit help us to live in the light of His sacrifice, lives worthy of your name. Judge us not according to our work but according to your mercy in Jesus Christ. For in Him we hope and in Him we come before you this day. Amen.**

**Moment of Silent, Personal Reflection and Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon** (*John 20:21-23—Responsive*)

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them...” By the authority of Jesus Christ I declare that God has mercy on us, pardons us and sets us free. Know that our sins are forgiven through Jesus Christ our Savior. God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

**Thanks be to God.**

May the peace of Christ be with you always!

**And also with you!**

## **MOMENT FOR MEDITATION: OUT OF THE BOAT**

Getting out of the boat means getting out of your comfort zone. It means doing something you’ve never done before. I’m not talking about jumping out of an airplane, or going bungee jumping. I’m talking about doing something you’ve always wanted to do. Many people have dreams burning on the inside of them, but they are afraid to step out and pursue them. They are afraid to step out of their comfort zone, because they are afraid of the unknown.

Peter wanted to experience what Jesus was experiencing and wanted it so bad that he stepped out. He started walking on the water. Something that is totally impossible in the natural. There may be something that you want to do, that in your eyes, it seems impossible. Sometimes there can seem to be too many obstacles standing between you and your dream. Sometimes those obstacles look like insurmountable mountains. But I have good news for you: there is nothing too hard for God! The Bible says that all things are possible to them that believe.

When Jesus told Peter, “Come,” Peter believed in the words of Jesus and he started doing the impossible. We have to do the same thing. We must meditate the Word of God and think on the Word of God until we know that we can become what we believe. Peter was doing fine until he took his eyes off of Jesus and began looking at the waves and turning his attention to how hard the wind was blowing. It was only then that he began to sink.

We must take our eyes off of circumstances. Yes, the circumstances are real. Yes, we have to count the cost before we step out. But we must remember that once we know that we are in the will of God, and God is telling us to step out, we must be like Moses when he was facing the Red Sea. Pharaoh and his army were behind him and the Red Sea was in front of him. God didn’t tell him, “I’m sorry man. I wasn’t prepared for the Red Sea. I guess you’re stuck.” No. God told him to stretch out that rod and move forward. When Moses did, God parted the Red Sea and the Israelites walked on dry land.

When God tells us to move, we must trust that He will go before us and make the crooked places straight. Remember **Jesus** told Peter to come out on the water. We must step out when Jesus tells us to. We must move when we are prompted in our spirits and when we know that we are in God’s timing. God has great plans for us. He wants us to step out of the boat that we are currently in; but when we do, we have to make sure **He** has called us out of the boat, and we must make sure we are prepared for what is outside our boat. When we are, and we start walking, get ready! You are about to do the impossible!

~ Matthew Chapman



*Christ Walking on the Water, Orthodox Icon, Artist Unknown*



*The Savior, Artist Unknown*

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

\* **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.**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 14:22-33*—**Jesus Walks on the Water**

<sup>22</sup> Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup> And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup> but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup> And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. <sup>26</sup> But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

<sup>28</sup> Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup> He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup> Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup> When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup> And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

This is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon:** "*Get Out of the Boat*"

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**Invitation to Stewardship and Offertory Prayer** (*Unison*)

**Thank you, Holy One, for the generosity that enables us to share. We are rich in many things. Help us to empty ourselves of pretense, even as we pour out gifts of gratitude. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves to shaping the community you intend, in the spirit of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**Offertory Solo:** "*Lord, Make Me An Instrument*"—Jonathan Willcocks  
Noelle Scheper, soprano

## Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

[If you have a joy or concern, you may name it aloud—or call out the name of someone in need—during the pause in the prayer. 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

\* **Closing Hymn No. 379 (vv. 1, 3-4):** “*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*”

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand: all other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, His covenant, His blood, support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found:  
Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]

## Charge and Benediction

**Postlude:** “*Prelude and Fugue in F Major*”—J. S. Bach

## LEADING WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi, *Pastor*

Heather MacPhail, *Organist/Director of Music Ministries*

Jason Dennison, *Videographer/Director of Technology*

Erin and Dayo Olakanmi, *Asst. Videographers*

Donna Kimball, *Lay Leader*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

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

✚ **The Annual Church Picnic is this coming Friday, Aug. 18, at the Riverview Shelter in Fernbank Park.** There will be chicken, green beans, and coleslaw from The Farm will be provided, with an \$8 donation suggested. Please use the signup sheet in the narthex to let us know you'll be attending, so we can give The Farm an accurate count.

✚ **Please plan to stay after the August 27 worship service.** There's a rumor going around that there will be cake. Exactly why, no one's saying, but any day is a good day for cake!

✚ **This Week's Flowers Are Given:**

- ♥ By Rhonda Eileen Rothhaas in memory of Ron, their son Robert, and their parents, Margaret & Edward Jones and Helen & Elmer Rothhaas.
- ♥ By their family in memory of Fred & Carol Hillsley.

✚ **Prayers are requested for:**

- ♥ Bill Seitz, who is recovering from cancer surgery.
- ♥ DJ Hines, Sandy Morris' brother-in-law, with on-going health issues.
- ♥ Carla Barlow, who is under hospice care in Baltimore, and her family.
- ♥ Heather, a friend of Marty Grote's daughter-in-law Sarah, recovering from a serious accident. Marty is Susan Greenlee's sister.
- ♥ Rudy Bruno, a friend of Barb Nieman, dealing with health issues.
- ♥ Emily, Linda Gardener's daughter, prayers for personal matters.
- ♥ Walt Albers, Linda Gardner's brother, has started chemotherapy.
- ♥ Kathy O'Connell, Chris O'Connell's aunt, recovering from a recent stroke.
- ♥ Diane Ringshauser, who is now in remission.
- ♥ Pierce Teepen, son of Alyssa and Tyler, friends of Rhonda Boddy.
- ♥ Diana Jackson, Rhonda's sister-in-law, undergoing chemotherapy.
- ♥ Kristine Von Holle, a friend of Sandy Morris, with kidney 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.

**PRAY**  
*without ceasing*