

## WORSHIP for August 9, 2020

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) To watch sermons recorded on Zoom on our YouTube Channel, go to the FPCP website:

<https://www.fpcpataskala.com/> and click on WORSHIP

or follow us on Facebook from the homepage.

3) Please invite family or friends, who want to join us for live worship on Sundays @10:45am, to request access by emailing their name, email, & phone number to [janetann386@gmail.com](mailto:janetann386@gmail.com)

4) If you need a COVID-19 cloth mask call 740-901-1232 for the Johnsons, who lead the CRT. Thank you to Gage Marcum and Katie Slaymaker, who have been making masks available.

**Prelude** played by Megan Ladd, **"It is Well with My Soul"**

*Horatio Gates Spafford (1873); Music by Philip P Bliss (1876); public domain*

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EogrjEYM2i2YuXKKcRgzQIU\\_BkPYJkri](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EogrjEYM2i2YuXKKcRgzQIU_BkPYJkri)

**Call to Worship:** Psalm 105:1-4 *Responsively*

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

**Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.**

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.**

**Opening Hymn: "O Love that Will Not Let Me Go"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nt69WDtYNLo>

**Prayer of Confession:** Psalm 23 *Unison*

**Lord, we were created to bring you praise and glory, by remembering who you are and what you have done. But we confess that we are forgetful and absent minded. We confess that we often turn our focus away from you. Forgive our sin. Amen.**

*(Pause for a time of silent confession.)*

**Assurance of Forgiveness:** Psalm 23 *Responsively*

Though we forget, the Lord remembers us. "For he remembered his holy promise given to his servant Abraham." He remembers through sending Jesus Christ his Son. We believe the good news of the gospel.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

**"The Gloria Patri"**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgcYD\\_m4OhU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgcYD_m4OhU)

**Hymn of Preparation: "Jesus Call Us"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYIQw8w2TEw>

**Call to God's Word:** *Unison*

**"Scripture cannot be set aside... What does Scripture say?"** John 10:35 & Romans 4:3.

Prayer for Illumination: *Unison*

Lord, through your Spirit enable us to consider your Word, and to enact it in our lives to bring you glory and praise. Amen.

Gospel Readings: Matthew 14:13-22-36 (NIV)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2014:22-36&version=NIV>



**SERMON:** "Crossed Over" by The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford

Watch sermon on: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAdy2hvW6PL93B6hbgswTxf93Evs575yd>

In today's passage, after the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus finally gets needed rest and quiet time to pray in Bethsaida. In Mt 14: 22-24: "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."

Jesus prays all thru the night, then vv. 25-26 "Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to the them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were

terrified. 'It's a ghost,' they said, & cried out in fear."

The response of the disciples is somewhat understandable. How many human beings have we ever seen walking on water? The ability to do so is against natural law.

But recall too Herod's strange explanation of Jesus miracles in 14:1, "At that time Herod the tetrach heard the reports about Jesus, and he said to his attendants. "This is John the Baptist – he has risen from the dead! That is why miraculous powers are at work in him." Herod's statement about Jesus is made after his killing of John the Baptist. Herod is haunted by his sinful act of murder. Perhaps the disciples are afraid that what happened to John might happen to Jesus and to them, which is a real threat.

Jesus gives assurance. V. 27, "But Jesus immediately said to them, 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'"

The strangeness of this passage continues with Peter's strange response. As a fisherman he knows that people can't walk on water. He's never dared such a stunt, yet in v. 28 "Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you." What? Hold on. What if it were not Jesus, but an evil spirit seeking to cause harm? Might it not ask Peter to come in order to do him harm? Peter is not thinking right, perhaps exhausted from the long night. But Jesus instructs him, just as he did when they met along the shore. In v. 29 Jesus said, "Come."

Apparently Peter recognizes the voice & the call, for then Peter exercises incredible obedience and faith, just as he did in leaving everything when first called by Jesus and as all the disciples did at the feeding of the 5,000. But this time, Peter risks his very life! V. 29, "Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus." Another miracle, like the feeding of the 5000, but this one with Peter alone. But the first step was taking the first step, getting down out of the boat. If Peter had stayed in the boat, as he was accustomed to doing as a fisherman, the miracle would never have happened.

V. 30, "But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!'" Saw the wind? Wind is invisible. How could he see it? He couldn't. But he could see the affect of the wind. He saw the waves on the water caused by the wind working all night buffeting against the boat so it could not get to shore. Once taking his eyes off Jesus and focusing instead on the obstacle of the waves, Peter was sunk, as the saying goes! He went downhill fast. Further, once faith was lost, so too was the miracle almost lost.

Then v. 31-2, "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.

Here is another transition in Jesus' ministry, although always a major focus, Jesus' teaching & preaching turns almost exclusively to the topic of faith, belief, and trust. Some people think Jesus' talked mostly about love, joy, and peace, but faith, belief, and trust is Jesus' main topic regarding the kingdom.

Then the focus of the disciples now turns away from fear and toward worship. V. 33 those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'" What a lesson for us, during these times of our being buffeted by the waves with the wind against us. What is our focus? About what do we talk? What is the subject of our conversations? COVID-19. Civil unrest. Health: Aches and pains. Complaints about interruptions to our plans. Small talk in

avoidance: weather, sports, whether we are sporting all the disinfecting products that we need and where to find them. Or rather when we take the time to stay in touch with family and friends, near and far, do we call each other to praise the Lord and share the faith, to talk about what moves us in Scripture during our private devotions, to share a beautiful song or an inspirational writing. More than anything else, do we worship God? Worship is not 1 hour a week in a church building, but in the quality and quantity of how we live out every moment of our lives, including places remote & removed from crowds. Is that how we live? Worship is what this passage encourages in us. And when we do, the result is even more amazing than walking on water.

When Jesus left the area of Gennesaret, where Jesus' new hometown was located, he had suffered rejection by his people. But since his journey to Bethsaida just across a small slice of the Galilean lake where over 5,000 were feed, when Jesus crossed back over to home much had changed.

Listen to vv. 34-36, "When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him and begged him to let the sick touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed."

This is amazing! For after John the Baptist was put in prison, the towns that Jesus visited, including his hometowns of Capernaum and Nazareth, were not repentant, such that he could not perform miracles there. But now the men recognize him and send word to all the surrounding country. The unusual gender specific mention of men ties today's account to the feeding of 5000 men. Jesus' staying behind to pray in Bethsaida gave the men who were present at the miracle of the feeding time to return and tell. Based on their accounts, all the people welcomed Jesus and receiving healings again.

To summarize, Peter crossed the water to Jesus. The people of Gennesaret crossed over to a new way of thinking about Jesus after the miracle in the remote place away from their homes, like excited youth who return from Bible camp. I've seen it happen with my own children. Question. Is this a crossing place for us? What transition is needed for Jesus' great works to be done among us of FPCP? Will we, men and women alike, worship & tell the surrounding countryside about what Jesus has done for us? Like Peter will we get out of the boat in faith, trust, and belief to see what more Jesus does? Even in the waves, let's step out of the boat in faith, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### **Hymn of Response: "The Solid Rock"**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhVwVHC6\\_n0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhVwVHC6_n0)

### **PRAYERS OF JOYS & CONCERNS, FOLLOWED BY THE LORD'S PRAYER: *Unison***

Send requests to Pastor Janet's email [janetann386@gmail.com](mailto:janetann386@gmail.com) or call or text 412-877-8310.

**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.**

**Please Continue to Give in Dedication to Our Lord and Savior, Jesus**

**Prayer Of Dedication:** *Unison*

God, in view of your mercy help us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to you, O God. Amen. *Romans 12:1*

**Doxology**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqpXWF15avU>

**Closing Hymn: "It Is Well With My Soul"**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHe\\_gmo3gX4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHe_gmo3gX4)

**Benediction:** *Responsively*

"He brought out his people with rejoicing, his chosen ones with shouts of joy." Go forth with great joy in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**TABLE TALK**

"When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country..."

*Matthew 14:34-35a*

What praise & witness shall we lift against the waves?