

August 9, 2020
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We gather to worship God who comes to us when we least expect it...
Congregation: God speaks the words of peace we need in chaotic times.
 Pastor: We gather to worship God who calls us out of the safety net of our ordered lives...
Congregation: Jesus encourages us to never fear, for he is near.
 Pastor: We gather to worship that we might be filled with the Spirit...
Congregation: The Spirit anoints us so we can go to serve our world.
All people: Let's worship together!

HYMN

This is the Day (with echo)

Bulletin, Page 5

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: This is the day that the Lord has made! For certain, the Lord is with us today and every day – in the good and easy times as well as in times of strain and stress. Let us open our hearts to confess who we are and where we are in life.
Congregation: Our hearts are open. We want to know peace and hope. Let's pray!

LITANY OF CONFESSION

All: *Lord, please forgive our weakness and our lack of trust in you. We are like disciples who, in the midst of fears and storms, could only tremble and wonder about the threatening events. Even when Jesus called to the disciples, they shook with fear. But Jesus offered words of encouragement.*

All sing:

Don't Be Afraid

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "Don't be a-fraid. My love is strong-er, my love is strong-er than your fear. Don't be a-fraid. My love is strong-er and I have prom-ised, prom-ised to be al-ways near." The chords are: C, G, Dm, C, F, Dm, G, G, C, G, Dm, C, Am, F, Dm, G, C.

All people: Impulsive Peter asked Jesus to call to him, and bid him to come out of the boat. Jesus complied and Peter stepped over the edge onto the waves – but fear claimed him again and he began to sink.

All sing: Don't Be Afraid

All people: Many of us can identify with that moment when we let go of our faith and clutch our fears. Help us to take our focus off the wind and the waves and place our gaze directly on you. You will guide and lift us to safety – that is the promise you have given to us and we believe it. Give us strong hearts and willing spirits to be your disciples. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Don't be afraid! Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.

²This is the account of Jacob's family line. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate^[a] robe for him. ⁴When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

¹²Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, ¹³and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them."

"Very well," he replied.

¹⁴So he said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me." Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron.

When Joseph arrived at Shechem, ¹⁵a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?"

¹⁶He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?"

¹⁷"They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'"

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. ¹⁸But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

¹⁹"Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. ²⁰"Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

²¹When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. ²²"Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing—²⁴ and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵ As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

²⁶ Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? ²⁷ Come, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.” His brothers agreed.

²⁸ So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels^[a] of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 14:22-33

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

²⁸ “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

²⁹ “Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

SERMON

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

All: 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.

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: God calls us to let go of the things to which we tightly cling. God calls us to let go of fear and step out in faith. We can trust in God’s love and provision. Let us be courageous and confident in this act of faith – the giving of our time, talent, and money! Let us take

a moment in silence to ponder our trust in God's provision and what that means for our act of faithful giving. (Moment of silence) Let us offer our gifts and ourselves, using the Offertory Prayer as printed in our bulletins.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

All people: Take our lives and our gifts. Use them to accomplish more than we could possibly imagine, so that, through us, your kingdom might come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Beloved of God, neither wind or waves can swamp you! Place your trust in God's mercy and love. Step out of your comfort zone and go into the world in peace, confident of God's presence and love for all creation.

All people: Amen.

84

This Is the Day

Ps. 118:24; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 2:1-4

St. 1 paraphr. by Les Garrett, 1967; alt.

St. 2-3, traditional; alt.

Unison

E \flat *B \flat 7*

1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our
2 This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus
3 This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the

E \flat

God has made; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be
rose a - gain; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be
Spir - it came; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be

A \flat *E \flat* *A \flat*

glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joyce and be
glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joyce and be
glad in it. This is the day when the Spir - it came, we will re-joyce and be

E \flat *E \flat /B \flat B \flat 7* *E \flat*

glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.
glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.
glad in it; This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

The first stanza of this hymn was written by Leslie Garrett, who was born in New Zealand and served as pastor of a church in western Australia. The other two stanzas are anonymous.

Tune: THIS IS THE DAY Irr.
Les Garrett, 1967

478

I've Got Peace Like a River

Isa. 66:12; 1 Pet. 1:8-9; 1 John 4:7-12

African-American spiritual

1 I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a
 2 I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a
 3 I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an
 4 I've got faith like an an - chor, I've got faith like an

1
 riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er, in my
 foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain, in my
 o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean, in my
 an - chor, I've got faith like an an - chor, in my

2
 soul. I've got riv - er in my soul.
 soul. I've got foun-tain in my soul.
 soul. I've got o - cean in my soul.
 soul. I've got an - chor in my soul.

Congregations or individuals may wish to add additional verses of their own making.

Most of the spirituals that drew from biblical stories and images used the Hebrew scriptures, rather than the New Testament, as their inspiration. The imagery of "peace like a river" derives from the book of Isaiah.

Tune: PEACE LIKE A RIVER 7.7.10.D.
 African-American spiritual