



*10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
August 9, 2020

## **Prelude**

*Faith of Our Fathers, Martha Main, YouTube*

**We are Called to Worship** - Jesus walks to us over the water. "Call to us, Lord. We long to be with you." Jesus calls to us, "Come! Do not be afraid." "Save us, Lord, we're sinking!" Jesus saves us from our fears. God delivers us from the storm. Thanks be to God!~

**Gathering 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.+

## **Song 1**

*When Peace Like a River , 428, YouTube*

## **Sharing Our Joys and Concerns**

**A Time of Prayer:** *You are welcome to send prayer requests to Pastor Sarah. Spend a few moments connecting with God and lifting up your prayers.*

### **The Lord's Prayer** (unison)

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.

## **Special Music**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*, Martha Main, YouTube

## **Song 2**

*'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*, 442, YouTube

## **We Hear God's Word**

Matthew 14:22-33 (CEB)

<sup>22</sup> Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup> When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone. <sup>24</sup> Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. <sup>25</sup> Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake. <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed.

<sup>27</sup> Just then Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid."

<sup>28</sup> Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water."

<sup>29</sup> And Jesus said, "Come."

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!"

<sup>31</sup> Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?" <sup>32</sup> When they got into the boat, the wind settled down.

<sup>33</sup> Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You must be God's Son!"

## **Meditation**

*Rocking the Boat*

## Spiritual Practice of the Week



When his disciples were filled with fear, anxiety, uncertainty, and apprehension, the Good News Jesus shared with them was, “Be encouraged!” Students, educators, staff of all kinds, and administrators are beginning a new and uncertain school year. From preschoolers excited for their very first day or school to graduate students, from recent grads starting their first teaching position to seasoned educators, so many need support and encouragement. Reach out to someone you know starting a new school year and offer them a word of encouragement.

## We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

### Offertory

Friends, we may not be together in person today as we worship, but the ministry of our church goes on. During this time when we are apart, we are still in need financial support for our ministry.

You’re invited to take out your checkbook in these moments. As you write out your offering, be prayerful with each letter and number. In times such as these, when money becomes tight and our economy is under strain, God invites us to be generous and give what we can. These are gifts we freely give, as we are able and as we are called.

We ask that you please mail in your offerings to our office.

Zion United Church of Christ  
8916 E. Troy Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46239

You can now submit your offerings on our website through a secure PayPal

donation button. Please know that PayPal receives a 2.2% processing fee and a \$0.30 transaction charge. You are able to set up reoccurring, monthly payments. Check it out on our website at [www.zionuccindy.net/donate](http://www.zionuccindy.net/donate).

**\*The Doxology** (Please sing the version that is most meaningful to you)

*Version 1*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Version 2*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.*

**\*We Give Thanks** (unison) – Loving God, we believe that you have saved us, you are saving us and you will save us. We offer to you our whole lives as a living sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Use us; multiply us and these gifts we have placed at your altar, to extend the invitation of life, community and purpose in this place and around the world. Amen.+

**Back to School Blessing** – The following prayer was written by our Conference Minister, Rev. Chad Abbott. It was shared throughout the conference this week. If you know someone who needs this prayer this week, please share it with them.

*A Prayer for Education*

O Great Teacher, it has already begun or is about to begin...school that is....and we are scared. We are scared not because we are weak, but because of the uncertainty of this virus, the uncertainty of our educational systems to handle what all students need, the uncertainty of this moment. When we pray "we," who is the we? We are teachers, students, administrators, food service providers, artists, counselors, coaches, teacher's aides, parents, grandparents, siblings, and community members. Draw near to us in this moment of beginning, for we do not know what

this school year will bring and we need your wisdom to be present to the work that is ahead.

O God, we pray for educators.....our teachers, principals, administrators, school board members, professors, counselors, assistants, coaches, and all whose holy work is grounded in teaching and in the formation of other lives. We pray for their safety, for their capacity to teach among unusual circumstances, and for their resiliency amidst the exhaustion of this time. When they went into education as a profession, O God, they likely could never have imagined a moment such as this. So, draw them close to you and may they be supported by the strength of your Spirit.

O Holy One, we pray for students...elementary students, middle school students, high school students, university students, graduate students, and students of life. We know the anxiety that comes with stepping out into the unknown. We pray for students who have so clearly needed community and the structure of a school week, that they would know such consistency while remaining safe. We pray for those students who are deeply afraid of returning before this pandemic is over. May your love and compassion surround them with comfort and peace. We pray for those who feel lonely or isolated because they cannot be around friends. We pray for all students who are disappointed.....disappointed or fearful that this school year will mean them being unable to participate in the arts, in sports, and in academics that ground their lives in the future. May your many students, O God, experience your presence in this new year.

O Divine Presence, we pray for all support persons....parents, grandparents, siblings, community mental health groups, and families. It is hard to send your child to school not knowing for certain that they are safe. We pray for faith and hope to surround those who support students and educators alike. We pray for those that will look over shoulders at screens with a child as they e-learn and as they seek to balance this with their life at work and a life in our communities. As these persons support your beloveds in their education, O God, may they be buoyed by your Spirit and be provided strength for this moment.

Teach us what it means to love and serve our neighbor as schools resume their work. It will not be easy and will not come without risk, but whatever it looks like, O God, may our work in education this year reflect your deep and abiding love for all of creation. May it be so. Amen.

Rev. Chad R. Abbott, Conference Minister, Indiana-Kentucky Conference, UCC

### **Song 3**

*Blessed Assurance*, 426, YouTube

**We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing** - God blesses us with strength for the journey. May our hearts sing God's praises. Christ lifts us up from the raging waters of life. May our spirits rejoice in our salvation. The Spirit guides us with dreams full of hope and promise. May our lives rest secure in the One who is faithful. Thanks be to God! Go forth this day to love and serve the LORD. Amen.~

### **Postlude**

*We Will Glorify*, Martha Main, YouTube

Worship Notes: ~ Scifres, Mary. *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017*. Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition. = Kimberly Bracken Long. *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2: Trinity Sunday through Reign of Christ* (p. 51). Westminster John Knox Press. Kindle Edition. +UCC Worship Ways.