

MUMC At-Home Worship:

May 10, 2020

Take heart!

Have you ever found yourself in the middle of life's storms? Today's story from the gospel is likely a familiar one and a favorite of mine, when Jesus meets his disciples while they are in the middle of a lake in a terrible storm. Not only does Jesus meet them there but he encourages them and welcomes Peter to walk on the water out to him.

I pray that in this time of worship today you find Jesus walking out to you – and you hear his words of encouragement and strength to walk on the water toward him. Thanks for worshipping with us!

-Pastor Dillon

If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:

Dear God, may our worship prepare us to take heart and courageously live our faith in a conquered world. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*, United Methodist Hymnal #133 – [watch/listen here](#)

Centering Scripture: “I’ve said these things to you so that you will have peace in me. In the world you have distress. But take heart! I have conquered the world.” (John 16:33)

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Reflect:

1. The disciples, frightened in the storm, think their situation is going from bad to worse when they see what they think is a ghost. Have you ever had an experience when something you thought would make things worse turned out to be a blessing in disguise? What are some ways might we train ourselves to see the blessing initially?
2. Peter asks Jesus to leave the relative safety of the boat to walk on the water. What might be some other examples of when our faith in Christ encourages us to leave a relatively safe place to walk into a storm?
3. Jesus asks Peter, “Why did you begin to have doubts?” How would you answer Jesus if you were Peter?

Hymn: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*, United Methodist Hymnal #474 – [watch/listen here](#)

Prayer Requests: Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *It Is Well with My Soul*, United Methodist Hymnal #377 – [watch/listen here](#)

Closing Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for your comforting presence in the storms of life. Help us take heart and walk toward you this week. In your holy name we pray, Amen. (*Blow out the candle*)

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
United Methodist Hymnal #133

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

(Refrain)

3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

(Refrain)

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” words by Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887, and are in the public domain.

Matthew 14:22-33 (CEB)

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. When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone. Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, “It’s a ghost!” They were so frightened they screamed.

Just then Jesus spoke to them, “Be encouraged! It’s me. Don’t be afraid.”

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

And Jesus said, “Come.”

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

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, “You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?” When they got into the boat, the wind settled down.

Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, “You must be God’s Son!”

Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
United Methodist Hymnal #474

1. Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, let me stand
I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm lone
Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on to the light

Refrain:

Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

2. When my way grows drear
precious Lord linger near
When my light is almost gone
Hear my cry, hear my call
Hold my hand lest I fall
(Refrain)
3. When the darkness appears
and the night draws near
And the day is past and gone
At the river I stand
Guide my feet, hold my hand
(Refrain)
4. Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, let me stand
I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm lone
Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on to the light
(Refrain)

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand" words by Thomas A. Dorsey
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It Is Well with My Soul
United Methodist Hymnal #377

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials
should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
(Refrain)
3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
(Refrain)
4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall
be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall
descend,
even so, it is well with my soul.
(Refrain)

"It Is Well with My Soul" words by Horatio G. Spafford, 1873,
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