



Welcome to this sanctuary.
Welcome to this time of worship and wonder.
Welcome to this family of faith.

We're glad you're here today and pray that your experience with us in worship is both challenging and uplifting!

Our ushers are available to assist you as needed.

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, we invite you to visit our website. There you will find out the ways to keep in touch, how we live our faith, our different partnerships and so much more.

Our website address is: www.firstpresracine.org

If you're interested in receiving news about the church, please call 262.632.1686 or email: <a href="mailto:shelley@firstpresracine.org">shelley@firstpresracine.org</a>

Rev. Darren Utley—Church Pastor pastordarren@firstpresracine.org

# TODAY'S SERVICE

PASTOR—Rev. Darren Utley
LITURGIST—Jenny Eastman
MUSICIANS—Alejandro Alumbreros
BULLETIN & GRAPHICS—Shelley Maurer
MEDIA TECH SPECIALIST—Steve Comeau

\*Please stand as you are able.
[Bold type] indicates text to be spoken by the congregation.
[Bold italic type] indicates song to be sung by the congregation.



### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jenny Eastman

**PRELUDE** 

**Prelude on Precious Lord, Take My Hand** | arr. Sean James Fleming Alejandro Alumbreros

**CALL TO WORSHIP** 

God, you are a God of invitation.

You invited Abraham to follow you.

You invited the disciples to drop their nets.

You invited the children to draw near.

You invited Peter to walk on water.

You invited the tax collector to dinner.

You invited the Samaritan woman into eternal life.

Just the same, you invite us to live lives of faith.

Give us the strength to say yes.

Let us worship good and holy God.

\*OPENING HYMN

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less [GtG Hymn #353]

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

\*ACT OF PRAISE

**Come and Find the Quiet the Center** 

[v. 1]

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed: clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

#### \*PASSING THE PEACE

As Christ welcomed everyone, no matter what their background or social standing; as Christ welcomed enemies & friends, outcasts & leaders, foreigners & neighbors, let us open our hearts and homes and lives. Let us be like Christ to everyone we meet.

Peace be with you. **And also with you.** 

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE Matthew 14:22-33

[NT 16]

SERMON Peter Sinks in Water
Rev. Darren Utlev

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Pavane | Gabriel Fauré

\*Song of Response

Calm to the Waves [GtG Hymn #184]

#### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Great Sewer— Who weaves us together in community, Collecting our loose ends and turning them into belonging.

I believe in the Holy Spirit— Who hems us in before and behind, Catching us when we fall and writing us into God's holy narrative.

And I believe in Jesus Christ—
Who loved and claimed the people society had thrown out, refusing to disregard anyone as scrap.

I believe God has woven part of God's self into the fiber of our being, Making us inherently worthy of love and belonging.

I believe the fabric of my life is weak, That I am prone to error and need God's handiwork to remind me of love.

I believe in the Church, and that like a quilt of different fabrics, She is designed to be as diverse and beautiful as God's creation. And I believe that when life unravels, God is there to stitch my wounds together, To hold me in the palm of God's hand, to tell me of love, And to invite me into a new journey. Amen.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

The Way It Was | Alexis French

\*DoxoLogy

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

GOING FORTH TO MINISTER

\*CLOSING HYMN

How Firm a Foundation [GtG Hymn #463]

\*BENEDICTION

\*SUNG BLESSING

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me [GtG Hymn #543, v. 1]

God be the love to search and keep me; God be the prayer to move my voice; God be the strength to now uphold me: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

POSTLUDE

Sing Praise to God (Postlude in Seven) | arr. Gene Roberson

Prayers by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



Step Into the Swell | Lisle Gwynn Garrity



READ // MATTHEW 14:22-33

FROM THE ARTIST // LISLE GWYNN GARRITY

At the start of this chapter, John the Baptist is brutally beheaded. Jesus withdraws from the crowds to a deserted place, yet is followed by the masses—perhaps many of them former followers of John the Baptist. Moved with compassion, he heals the sick and miraculously generates bounty from a meal of five loaves and two fish.

Then, he "immediately" rushes the disciples into a boat, dismisses the crowds, and retreats to a mountain by himself. Perhaps he needs space to grieve John and to grapple with the gravity of his calling. The crowds and demands of his ministry were surging; in the same way, the waves and the wind begin to batter the boat that had drifted far from shore. If you've ever been in open water during a storm or even high winds, you know the shockwave of fear that pulses through your veins. Yet, as dawn breaks, a mirage beckons to them, casting out words to buoy them up: "Do not fear."

What I find in Peter's response is not a challenge or a profession of doubt, but a willingness to step into the swell, like a trust fall into the unknown. Perhaps in seasons when our sense of certainty and security unravels, our desperation is more likely to convert into courage. Is there something about unraveling that makes us a bit less risk-averse, a bit more willing to try what we wouldn't have dared when everything felt predictable and sure?

Imagine this same scene with no storm, no raging seas, no ghostly glimpse of Jesus skimming the surface. Would Peter have stepped in then? Would he have expanded his definition of what's possible? Would he have experienced the divine so surprisingly, so surely? Would you step in?

## PRAYERS ARE POWERFUL

Heartfelt thoughts & prayers for the family of Mary Lee and all who have recently experienced the loss of a family member or friend. May they know peace and comfort during these difficult times.

Prayers of comfort & healing for Myrna Kryger, Carter Nitz, Sandra Hopkins, Peggy Taylor, Kathy Wortley, Ellen Easley, Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey, Mary Johnson, Barb Stevenson, Kay Mahl, Louise Shapley, Evelyn Vanderheyden, Leah Fisher.

As they deal with physical, emotional and/or spiritual issues, please pray for Autumn Eifert's paternal grandmother; Bob—friend of Sharon Campbell; Carol—sister of Ginny Holle, Dan & Joyce—parents and Jeff—husband of Shelley Maurer; Richard —brother of Steve Comeau; Elena & Ezequiel Romero—parents of Deb Utley; Masako—mother of Fumi Nakayama; John—husband of Sandy Hawley; Mary Ann—mother of Cheryl Nitz; Laurel - niece of the Vollmans; John—son of Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey; Rudy—Nancy Lechner's brother; the Moes' family and Scott Mohn—friends of the Paffrath family; Steve, Susan, Sandra, John, Liz and Gabby—friends & family of the Galles; Chuck Pehlivanian—Sue's husband; Nancy—mother of Gloria Zember; Meyer Schaal; Linda—daughter of Louise Shapley; Tim—family member of Sheila Lawrence; and friends & family of the Lehmanns.

Prayers for those in the service — Col. Jay Brooke, Evan Humphreys, Jared Smith, Jordan Smith, Nicholas Hansen.

Thank you for your continued prayers for everyone. They are powerful!

WHAT'S HAPI	PENING?	
Sunday, August 1	17 <sup>th</sup> 9:30 <sup>AM</sup> 10:40 <sup>AM</sup>	Sunday Worship Fellowship
Monday, August 1	18 <sup>th</sup> 9:00 <sup>AM</sup>	Staff Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, August 2	20 <sup>th</sup> 4:00 <sup>PM</sup>	Food Pantry
Saturday, August 2	23 <sup>rd</sup> 11:00 <sup>AM</sup>	Celebration of Life—Mary Lee
Sunday, August 2	24 <sup>th</sup> 9:30 <sup>AM</sup> 10:40 <sup>AM</sup>	Sunday Worship Fellowship
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