

Worship on the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am August 09, 2026

Minister: The Rev. Brad Childs Music Director: Binu Kapadia

Vocalist: Linda Farrah Basford Elder: Gina Kottke

Children's time: Brad Reader: Laura Patterson-Fortin

*indicates that those who are able may stand

We gather to worship God

Music prelude

Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you

P: and also with you

Lighting of the Christ candle

Welcome and announcements

Preparation for worship

Call to worship:

L: Give thanks to God!

P: We will tell the world what God has done.

L: Let us bring praise to the name of our Creator.

P: We will honour God's name with shouts of joy!

L: Recall all that God provides.

P: Let us give thanks for all the wonders God has made!

Opening praise: *Holy is the Lord

Prayers of approach and confession

Surprising God, you arrive without warning— breaking into our carefully planned days, calling us beyond the familiar into the unknown places where Christ already walks.

We praise you for the quiet ways your Spirit moves among us: speaking calm into our fear, reaching for us when we begin to sink, stilling the storms we thought would overwhelm us.

So today, and every day, we choose to trust you— Creator, Redeemer, and faithful Guide— in the name of Jesus, our Lord and our friend.

Recalling your relentless kindness, and longing to begin again—with you and with one another— we come with honest hearts:

Merciful God, we confess the fear that shrinks us, the doubt that keeps us still, the anger we nurse in secret.

You call us to courage, yet we choose the safer path. You urge us toward justice, yet we stay silent when it costs us. You command us to love, yet too often we wound with carelessness or coldness.

Forgive us. By your mercy, make us new. Amen.

Response: *I waited, I waited on you, Lord*

Assurance of God's pardon

God offers forgiveness and saving grace to everyone. Accept these gifts for yourselves and offer forgiveness to others in the name of Christ our Lord.

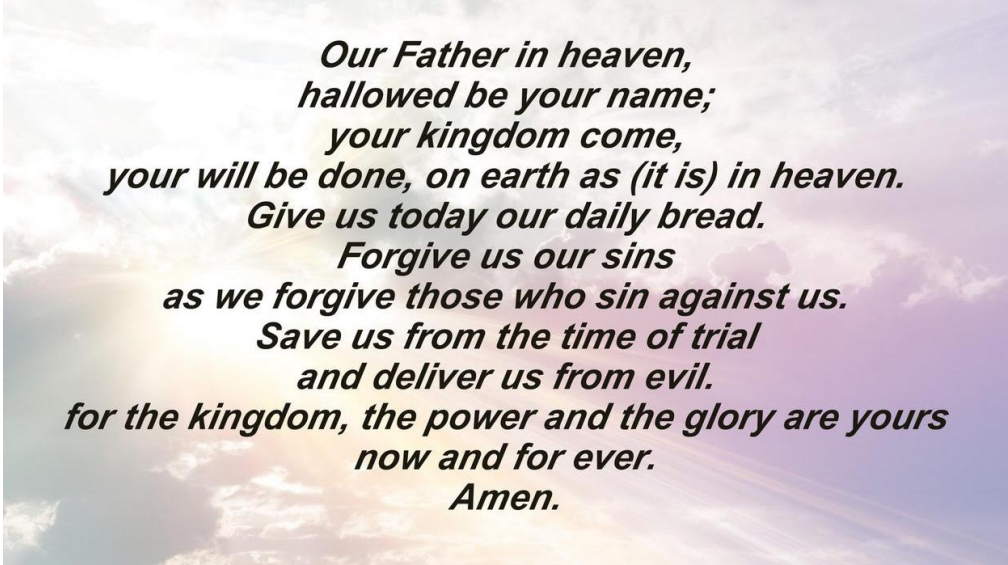
We listen for the voice of God

Open our eyes, Lord

445

Children's time and the Lord's Prayer

535



*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as (it is) in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.*

***Song: Jesus' hands were kind hands 631**

Scripture readings: Matthew 14: 22-33 & 1Kings 19:9-18

Response: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet*

Message: "Walking on Water"

God sometimes sends us into the storm that he will later save us from. We are called to obedience, but obedience does not mean easy. When we falter, all we need is a mustard seed size of faith or to pray, I believe, to help my unbelief. And when we reach out, Jesus takes our hand and lifts us up.

"It's 4 a.m. on the Sea of Galilee. The boat is taking on water. The wind is howling. Seasoned fishermen are terrified. And then they see something impossible walking toward them on the waves." "Have you ever obeyed God... and immediately sailed straight into a storm?"

Here:

1. Jesus sends them into the storm
2. Jesus comes to them in the storm
3. Jesus calls them to step out into the storm
4. Jesus rescues them when they sink
5. The storm produces worship

The story of Jesus walking on water is retold in Matthew, Mark and John, all directly following the story of the feeding of the 5000. The event takes place near the end of Jesus' ministry in his home region, before he expanded his ministry to gentile areas.

They are “Sent,”

In the scene, Jesus has been teaching all day and is once again very tired. He dismisses the crowd and, as Matthew notes, “sternly” and asks his disciples to go on ahead of him to the other side of the lake, saying that he wishes to go off to a solitary place to pray and that he will meet up with them later on the other side of the Sea of Galilee. I am going to give you the Brad Childs translation here, but basically, the Greek says, “please **go**.” It’s not rude, but it is stern. He says, “Could you please make like a tree and leave?” And who hasn’t felt that way? Who hasn’t just had to retreat and be alone with nothing but God and reset themselves? Apparently, Jesus did so; if you need to occasionally, you are in the finest of good company, and you shouldn’t feel bad about it.

And so the disciples left the more remote area near Bethsaida’s shore on the northeast side of the Sea of Galilee. They were heading west/northwest toward Capernaum, the larger city next to Nazareth (where Joseph and Jesus probably worked their daily labour) on the opposite shore. Then, suddenly, a contrary wind pushed them off course and slowed them considerably, making the trip even longer.

As the gospels note, this takes place at the so-called “fourth watch of night,” meaning somewhere between 3-6 am, so Jesus is either a night owl or an early riser. I tend to view him as a night owl because I am really annoyed that half the population gets to decide when the rest of us get out of bed. We, evening people, should get a union!

Sometimes it is called the Sea of Galilee. Depending on which military ruled the era, it is also known as Lake Kinneret, Lake Tiberias, or the Sea of Gennesaret. Also...

“Sea” is generous. It’s a really deep lake, and it is the absolute (by far) lowest freshwater lake and the second-lowest lake of any kind on earth. Still, this lake is only about 21 kilometres from north to south, and this, we are told, takes place about 5 kilometres from shore on a lake about double the size of Alberta’s Lake Walbaun or the similarly sized Pigeon Lake, but also way, way, way, deeper and in a deep valley with viciously wild cross winds that make boating in the small single sail canoe-like boats used at the time - extremely dangerous.

I remember a time I took a two-person canoe out on Slave Lake. It turns out... that’s not smart. The waves are huge there. But that is basically what we are talking about here. And remember, there are no lights, it’s early morning, and there are no life preservers. As a result, the disciples are terrified by the idea of being knocked off course or worst yet, capsized. They are alone on the lake in the waves with the darkness, the spray of water all around them, the exhaustion after a long day, caught in the sudden violence of the wind, and even though four of these individuals are **seasoned fishermen, they are in a panic**. Actually, they are panicked **because** they are **seasoned fishermen**. They know how many people drown attempting to fish on this body of water.

And then they see... it. Someone or something seems to be coming at them, walking across the surface of the water, and they believe it is a ghost. Note that the bible isn't teaching that Ghosts are real but it's interesting to see that the disciples believed in them.

In the Greek it says they were "tarasso" which quite literally means "shaking". The King James says they were "troubled." NIV, ESV, NLT, NASB all say either "terrified" or "frightened", Young's Literal says troubled and the Message says, scared out of their wits". When Jesus appears, the terror still lingers. Just because we find ourselves with God doesn't mean things can't still be scary.

But we are told that Jesus quickly calls out to them, saying, "Take courage and do not be afraid." Still unsure as to exactly what he is witnessing, Peter cries, "Lord, if that is indeed you, tell me to come out of the boat and walk to you."

Peter is in trouble and he prays. "Show me what to do". And Jesus calls him out of the boat.

Next, Peter gets out, also walks on water, but then becomes frightened by another strong gust of wind and begins to sink and cries out, "Save me!" Again, Peter prays. He asks Jesus to "save" him. Finally, Jesus reaches out his hand and lifts Peter up and then into the boat as the storm suddenly ceases to exist and the followers of Jesus all praise Him.

"Have you ever felt like God sent you straight into difficulty right after a spiritual high?" Jesus meets us in the storm, calls us to step out in faith, and is always ready to save us when our faith falters—revealing Himself as the Son of God worthy of our worship.

God sends us into the storm sometimes.

In verses 22-24 Matthew writes that Jesus "made" (compelled) the disciples get into the boat. And they do it. They do what Jesus asks. But the thing is obedience does not always lead to smooth sailing. I think that bears saying twice. Obedience does not guarantee smooth sailing. It sure isn't fun, but it's true: God sometimes directs us into difficulty not to abandon us, but to deepen dependence.

We are not abandoned in the storm. Jesus comes to us in the storm. He calls out, "Take courage. Do not be afraid." When we think the raging waters are in control, we forget the one who made them and can stroll right on top of them. Jesus does not always immediately calm the storm; sometimes He first calms *us* by revealing His presence. His presence is greater than the storm.

That doesn't mean we get to just sit back and wait for God to act without playing our part. Peter steps out of the boat and walks towards Jesus. In the middle of the storm, he trusts. Faith is not merely believing Jesus can do the miraculous; it is responding to His call to join Him in it. Sometimes the safest place is out of the boat, walking toward Jesus. Sometimes the safest place is in the boat. But as the old saying goes, "The safest place for a boat is in the harbour. But that is NOT where boats were built to be". Sometimes we need to get out of that boat (whether it feels safe or not)!

We fail but Jesus doesn't.

Peter sees the wind, becomes afraid, and begins to sink. From the telling of the story, it doesn't appear to happen quickly. It is described as if the sea is slowly swallowing him up, and he has time to speak. The water, the rising, the waves hit his legs, then his waist, then his chest, and he cries out for rescue.

He cries out the shortest prayer in the Gospels: "Lord, save me!"

Immediately, Jesus reaches out His hand and catches Peter. Then the gentle rebuke: "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" This is not as rude as it might appear. Again it's just blunt.

You see, the thing is, "Little faith" is still "faith" that looks to Jesus. Remember the father in Mark 9 whose son was sick, and when he spoke to Jesus and was told all he needed was faith, he told Jesus (whom he barely understood), "I do believe in you, but help me in my unbelief." Or as some translations put it, I believe, help my unbelief".

Or think of the amount of faith Jesus said we need – faith the size of the smallest known seed to them – that moves mountains!

Sinking moments are not the end—they are invitations to cry out. Sinking is not the end of the story—crying out is. Jesus does not let His own drown. Doubt does not disqualify us from His rescue. God works in our unbelief and doubt and struggle and does so with the most minuscule amount of faith that any of us can muster.

The story stops, and thanksgiving follows.

When Jesus and Peter climb into the boat, the wind dies down. The disciples worship Him: "Truly you are the Son of God." The goal of the storm is not just survival or even a stronger faith—it is a clearer vision of who Jesus is, leading to deeper worship.

In the end, the story is pretty easy to understand. There is struggle, an encounter with the divine, encouragement, a call, a rescue and then praise and worship follow.

But where are you in the story:

Exhausted just waiting to get to the other side?
Upset because your plans have all fallen apart?
Seeing Ghosts? Something that shocks you and bothers you?
Afraid of the waves and the storms around you?
Being blown off-course?
Worried about your life.
Hearing the call to step out, and hesitating?
Terrified by what is going on around you?
Already sinking and ashamed to cry out?
Crying out?
Hearing Jesus' "Come to me"?
Reaching out your hand and taking hold of the only One who can save?

The same Jesus who walked on water and rescued Peter went to the cross and rose again so that every sinking sinner who cries "Lord, save me" can be held forever. Fix your eyes on Jesus. Step out when He calls. Cry out when you sink. Know that doubt exists and that faith as small as one can imagine is more than enough.

Worship Him as the Son of God.

He pulled Peter from the raging waters and he will eventually do the same for all of us, in this life or in the next. And too will praise.
Amen.

Song: *Jump with joy

406

We respond to serve God

Our time of giving

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1. Place a donation in the Offering Plate as you leave the Sanctuary via the centre door. Use the Yellow envelopes (add Name & Address) or your numerically identified personal Offering Envelope if you want a tax receipt.
2. Use Pre-authorized remittance or e-transfer (call the Church Office on Wed or Thurs for info).
3. Click the Donate button on our website (bottom right at www.DayspringChurch.ca).
4. On Sundays, ask the Media Team how to use the machine in the Media Room.

Prayer of gratitude, and for others and ourselves

Gracious God,
we give you thanks for help offered by a stranger,
kindness in an anxious moment,
good news that changed expected outcomes,
relief in the midst of ongoing crises
and signs of hope when things seemed bleak.

Keep silence for 15 seconds

We pray for all who face upheaval and uncertainty, whatever the cause.
Fill our hearts with compassion and understanding for the fearful.

Steadying God,

Reach out to us in the storms of life.

God of peace,
we pray for those who struggle with illness or grief, anxiety or depression.
We remember those who feel worthless or ashamed, whatever the reason.
May they know your peace and strength.
Equip us to reach out in every way we can
to embody your love in our words and actions.

Steadying God,

Reach out to us in the storms of life.

God of hope,
we pray for all those people crying out for fair treatment,
working against racism and discrimination, telling painful stories of their lives.
Open our hearts with understanding
and motivate us to act for change.
We pray for those who resist the stories of injustice and defend inequality.
Open their minds to the truths they deny,
and show them new possibilities for relationships that bridge divides.
Send your Spirit to work in our communities to create mutual respect
and new ways to live as neighbours.

Steadying God,

Reach out to us in the storms of life.

Faithful God, we place our trust in you and your purposes.
Answer our prayers according to your wisdom and will,
for we offer them humbly in the name of Jesus Amen.

***Song: Give me oil in my lamp**

655

Sending out with God's blessing

Response: Go forth into the world

Go forth into the world

Music postlude

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