

Sebastopol United Methodist Church  
Sunday, August 9, 2020 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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Order of Worship, including Scripture

*Seasonal Theme:*

The teaching and ministry of Jesus the Christ.

*Theme for the day:*

Fearlessness shall embody those who are in Christ.

*Call to worship:*

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

Pastor: Jesus walks to us over the water.

People: **“Call to us, Lord. We long to be with you.”**

Pastor: Jesus calls to us: “Come! Do not be afraid.”

People: **“Save us Lord, we are sinking!”**

Pastor: Jesus saves us from our fears; God delivers us from our storm.

Unison: **Thanks be to God!**

*Centering & Prayer of Illumination:*

*(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

God of infinite possibilities, we are like the boat that is beaten by the storm: we are powerless when we are without you Grant us courage to believe that your power prevails. May your Holy Spirit guide us through your words so that we know that your love is deeper than our own failings and anyone who calls in your name will be saved. In Jesus’s name, we pray, Amen.

*Readings from Scripture:*     **Matthew 14:22-33**             **Romans 10:5-15**

*[texts of Scripture follow the service, beginning on page 2]*

*Message:*     **BE FEARLESS!**

*Pastoral Prayer*

*With thanksgiving for God's gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor for God's work in the world. Thank you for continuing to send your offerings and pledges by mail.*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:*

*(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

O Loving God, your mercies know no bounds. Your giving has no end, and your love is endless. May our offering be a sign of our faithfulness and gratefulness to you, our God and our deliverer. Amen.

*Blessing and Benediction:*

Pastor: God blesses us with strength for the journey.

People: **Our hearts will sing God's praises.**

Pastor: The Spirit guides us with dreams full of hope, promises and successes. Be patient. Stay afloat in his amazing grace. Be loving and stay safe. Wash your hands and keep your masks on when leaving your house.

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Scripture Readings – August 9, 2020

*first reading --* **MATTHEW 14:22-33**

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus

*(reading continues on following page)*

spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

*second reading* – **ROMANS 10:5-15**

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame."

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

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*Thank you for worshipping with us today.*