

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, August 9, 2020)

Share:

Children of God, come to the waters.
We gather to be restored and renewed.
Come with your faith and your doubt, your trust and your fears.
We respond to the one who claims and calls us.
Come, for Christ summons us to draw near, as we face our trials.
Let us praise God as we seek and learn and follow, step by step.

Read these words from a hymn today:

Give to the Winds Thy Fears

*Give to the winds thy fears; hope and be undismayed;
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears; God shall lift up thy head.*

*Through waves and clouds and storms, God gently clears the way;
wait patientluy; so shall this night soon end in joyous day.*

*Leave to God's sov'reign sway to choose and to command.
so shalt thou wond'ring own God's way, how wise, how strong God's hand!*

*Let us in life, in death, Thy steadfast truth declare,
and publish with our final breath, Thy love and guardian care.*

Read this scripture from worship:

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28, *The Message*

37 Meanwhile Jacob had settled down where his father had lived, the land of Canaan.

² This is the story of Jacob. The story continues with Joseph, seventeen years old at the time, helping out his brothers in herding the flocks. These were his half brothers actually, the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. And Joseph brought his father bad reports on them. ³⁻⁴ Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons because he was the child of his old age. And he made him an elaborately embroidered coat. When his brothers realized that their father loved him more than them, they grew to hate him—they wouldn't even speak to him. ¹²⁻¹³ His brothers had gone off to Shechem where they were pasturing their father's flocks. Israel said to Joseph, "Your brothers are with flocks in Shechem. Come, I want to send you to them."

Joseph said, "I'm ready."

¹⁴ He said, "Go and see how your brothers and the flocks are doing and bring me back a report." He sent him off from the valley of Hebron to Shechem.

¹⁵ A man met him as he was wandering through the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?"

¹⁶ "I'm trying to find my brothers. Do you have any idea where they are grazing their flocks?"

¹⁷ The man said, “They’ve left here, but I overheard them say, ‘Let’s go to Dothan.’” So Joseph took off, tracked his brothers down, and found them in Dothan.

¹⁸⁻²⁰ They spotted him off in the distance. By the time he got to them they had cooked up a plot to kill him. The brothers were saying, “Here comes that dreamer. Let’s kill him and throw him into one of these old cisterns; we can say that a vicious animal ate him up. We’ll see what his dreams amount to.”

²¹⁻²² Reuben heard the brothers talking and intervened to save him, “We’re not going to kill him. No murder. Go ahead and throw him in this cistern out here in the wild, but don’t hurt him.” Reuben planned to go back later and get him out and take him back to his father.

²³⁻²⁴ When Joseph reached his brothers, they ripped off the fancy coat he was wearing, grabbed him, and threw him into a cistern. The cistern was dry; there wasn’t any water in it.

²⁵⁻²⁷ Then they sat down to eat their supper. Looking up, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites on their way from Gilead, their camels loaded with spices, ointments, and perfumes to sell in Egypt. Judah said, “Brothers, what are we going to get out of killing our brother and concealing the evidence? Let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites, but let’s not kill him—he is, after all, our brother, our own flesh and blood.” His brothers agreed. ²⁸ By that time the Midianite traders were passing by. His brothers pulled Joseph out of the cistern and sold him for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites who took Joseph with them down to Egypt.

Matthew 14:22-33, *The Message*

²²⁻²³ As soon as the meal was finished, he insisted that the disciples get in the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he dismissed the people. With the crowd dispersed, he climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night. ²⁴⁻²⁶ Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves. At about four o’clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared out of their wits. “A ghost!” they said, crying out in terror.

²⁷ But Jesus was quick to comfort them. “Courage, it’s me. Don’t be afraid.”

²⁸ Peter, suddenly bold, said, “Master, if it’s really you, call me to come to you on the water.”

²⁹⁻³⁰ He said, “Come ahead.”

Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, “Master, save me!”

³¹ Jesus didn't hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand. Then he said, "Faint-heart, what got into you?"

³²⁻³³ The two of them climbed into the boat, and the wind died down. The disciples in the boat, having watched the whole thing, worshiped Jesus, saying, "This is it! You are God's Son for sure!"

Talk together, responding to these questions:

- How do times of turmoil and anxiety affect your trust in God?
- When we are facing trials, do we doubt God's power? Do we doubt ourselves?
- Can you recall other biblical stories, or a story from your own life, when God reached out to rescue or to overcome doubt and fear with the gift of increased faith?
- How has Jesus revealed his presence and companionship?
- How do Joseph and Peter/the disciples represent us as both individuals and as a community of faith?
- What is helping you/your family/us cope, be sustained, and increase your faith during this unsettled season in your life and the world?
- How do you "take heart?"

Pray together:

O Christ, Son of God, you walk on the waters of turmoil to meet us in the midst of your purposed journey for our lives. Help us to recognize your presence, remember your promise, rely on your power, and receive your peace through every storm. Accompany us during these difficult days. Amen.

Bless one another:

Take each person's hand and say. "God's grace is for you, God's love is upon you, God's call is within you. Be kind to yourself and others this week as a child of God."

Resources Used: *Disciplines, A Book of Daily Devotions*
Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion
Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal
The Message, by Rev. Eugene Peterson