WALKING ON WATER

“A Blessing That Bears the Wind, the Wave”

That we will risk
the drenching
by which we
are drawn
toward the voice
that calls us,
the love
that catches us,
the faith
that carries us
beyond the wind,
the waves.

—Jan Richardson

SUNDAY MESSAGE

We think about our gentle God, who will be there for us through the storms of life, encouraging and challenging us to step forward into our lives. We have a story by Kobi Yamada, What Do You Do with a Problem?, which says we can solve our problems with just a little faith, and a song about God’s Amazing Grace that can take away our fears.

Thanks to our creative team—reader, Peter Aitchison; soloist, Deb Harley; song leader, Steve Kremer; petitioners, Nona and Rowan McFarland; and reader and videographer, Richard Dodson.

BE PEACEMAKERS

This week marks the 75th anniversary of the U.S. dropping atomic bombs on the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. If you’d like to mark this painful date with learning and action, check out this website: https://bit.ly/3ijHMWH

SUMMER BREAK

After this video, we plan to take a brief summer break to recharge and get ready for the fall. Look for our next family video liturgy on September 6th. Enjoy the last sweet weeks of summer!

EMERGENCY ART!

Emergency Arts (https://bit.ly/2VoS44Y) is asking families to create boxes filled with art supplies that will be distributed to people devastated by the killing of George Floyd. In the words of EA: “Art helps us work through grief, loss, and trauma. Art can help us process and express our thoughts, feelings and experiences, create meaning, and build connections.” Can you make a box for a neighbor?

Find a Box or Shoe Box

Pack Box with Art Supplies
• Pack new, packaged and unopened art supplies.
• Pack your boxes with intention and care. The experience of opening the box should communicate respect, creativity, and solidarity.
• Pack boxes with any or all art supplies:
  • Colored pencils
  • Manual pencil sharpener
  • Pencils
  • Crayons
  • Markers
  • Glue stick
  • Blank construction paper
  • Blank notebooks
  • Blank sketchpad
  • Paints and brushes
  • Watercolor set
  • Air dry clay
  • Tape

Create Art or a Message and Place Inside the Box
• Draw, write, or create something with a message of hope, solidarity, and justice:
  • Justice for George Floyd
  • We stand with you
  • We will not be silent

Drop Off Your Box at SJA
Mon-Fri between 9am-3pm. Please practice all safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 including social distancing, washing hands, and wearing masks (which are now required on the SJA campus). Thank you for your generous hearts!

We Welcome You Wherever You Are On Your Journey
Jesus reached out, caught hold of Peter’s hand, and said,
“Peter, you have so little faith! Why didn’t you believe?”
When Jesus and Peter got into the boat, the wind stopped.
The other disciples said to Jesus,
“Truly, you are the Son of God.”

-Matthew 14: 31-33

**THE WORD**

Our readings focus on God’s presence in the calming of the storm. In our first reading (1 Kings 19: 9a, 11-13a), Elijah learns that God is not found in the darkness of the powerful wind, but in the gentle breeze that invites the prophet into the light.

In today’s Gospel (Matthew 14: 22-33), the disciples are in a boat when a storm arises. Through the darkness they see a figure approach them, walking on the water. They don’t recognize Jesus, and think he’s a ghost. Jesus encourages Peter to walk to him across the waves. Peter steps into the water, and begins to walk toward Jesus, until he loses faith and begins to sink. As Jesus lifts him from the water, he asks Peter—like a loving parent who still believes when their child falters—why he lost faith. As Peter and Jesus return to the boat, the storm stops. Only then do the other disciples recognize Jesus—in the stilling of the storm.

**PUZZLER**

Jesus walks on water

**WALKING ON WATER**

We hear a story about a child who learns that problems challenge us and make us grow in ways we might never imagine, but only if we trust ourselves and tackle them head on. In the Gospel, we see Jesus reaching out to each of us as he does Peter, encouraging us to face our fears and problems, challenging us to step off the boat and into our lives. If we open our hearts, our God will be there, ready to wrap us in the amazing grace that can take away our fears. We just need to believe and take that first step...
Have faith! Believe that your life make a difference.
Art by Brother Mickey McGrath. From the Wisdom Ways website.