

Zion United Church



Walking on Water
Matthew 14:22-33

Ashcroft, BC

August 10, 2014 – Pentecost 9

Lay Leader: Reta Robertson

WE PREPARE

Music for Gathering with Reta

Welcome & Announcements

Minute for Mission

WE GATHER

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

May the peace of Christ be with each of you always.

And also with you.

Call to Worship:

We gather today to greet our God.

We are thankful for God's love.

We gather today to renew our faith.

We strive to be God's faithful people.

Let us all worship God, for today is a day of rejoicing,

because we are truly blessed as we gather on

this day that the Lord has made.

Opening Prayer:

Comforter God, with vivid dreams and bold visions,
inspire us;

with tender love towards one another, renew us;

with your Spirit, alive with colour and breath, lead us to
this place.

May we speak and act authentically with one another,

that this community bears witness

to the reconciling, generous spirit of Christ. Amen.

♪ **Hymn:** VU #562 *Jesus Calls Us*

Prayer of Confession:

**Forgiving God, we admit that too often we seek human validation,
instead of validation that is most important: yours.**

**Like Peter, who doubted because he was frightened,
we sometimes doubt your presence and your love for us.**

**We confess that we become seduced by the world's powers
Instead of giving in to your humble love for us. Amen.**

Words of Affirmation:

With God, the impossible is possible!

Even when our hearts are closed to God,
even when we cannot see the Spirit's presence in our midst;
still, God is here with us, ready to catch and comfort.
What a gift, indeed!

♪ **Hymn:** VU #266 *Amazing Grace*

Story: *Looking Back*

♪ **Hymn:** MV #28 *God of the Bible*

Prayer for Illumination:

God of the ages,
your story has been told:

by generations who sought to bear fruitful witness,
by countless men and women who sought to be faithful,
by communities who tried to live out your love.

Help us this day as we seek you in the story.

Help us this day as we seek your will for us in these stories.

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 p.30 *Joseph is sold into slavery by his brothers*

Psalms 105 VU #828 *Remembering Joseph*

Matthew 14:22-33 p.796 *Jesus walks across stormy waters*

Reader: (holding up Bible) This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Message: *Take Heart*

WE RESPOND

♪ **Hymn:** VU #637 *Jesus, Saviour Pilot Me*

The Offering:

Invitation:

The image of Jesus calming the wind and the waves is a powerful image. It speaks of a church that helps to calm the turmoil in people's lives. Know that through your offering today, we do that here in Ashcroft and area, in other parts of Canada, and around the world. We will now receive our offerings.

♪ **Offertory Song:** MV #115 *Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New*
**Behold, behold, I make all things new,
beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold, behold, I make all things new,
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.**

Prayer of Dedication:

**Generous God, you call us to many forms of response in your world,
and so, we give of ourselves in whatever way possible:
through our talents, money, spiritual gifts, compassion, and vision for
love's reign, anew in the world.
We ask that you take these simple gifts,
stitched together with great hope, and patch them together into
offerings of love for the world.**

Amen

Prayers of the People

♪ **Hymn:** VU #675 *Will Your Anchor Hold?*

Blessing:

Go out from this place, open to the brokenness in your midst.
Go out, ready to answer, "I am here God, I will not close my eyes,
or ignore the difficult truths that you long for me to see."
As you go, know that the love of God surrounds you, the peace of the
Christ empowers you, and the fellowship of the Spirit moved within you,
and all of creation, now and always. Amen.