

08-09-26 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Just as Jesus stepped into the storm with the disciples, we can count on Jesus to be with us through our difficulties—enabling us to face our fear with faith. We are not able to control the storms of life, but neither do we need to get caught up in fearing them. Christ's presence empowers us to turn up the volume of our faith and turn down the volume of our fear.”

Sharon Williams



Matthew 14:22-33

Questions for Reflection —

- What stormy times have you faced over the years? How have such times challenged your trust in God? What have you learned about faith in undergoing and then coming through the storms of life? How has surviving a personal storm reshaped or deepened your relationship with Jesus? How has your trust in God been strengthened? What stormy situation(s) are you currently facing? What will help you to recognize Jesus' ongoing companionship and presence with you? How might we as a congregation lean on one another and encourage each other while waiting on God through storms?
- How might God be currently calling you to "get out of the boat", to step out of your comfort zone to something new for the sake of Christian discipleship? What is the dream or vision that might seem impossible and yet has been planted deep within? What might need to change or what risks might you have to assume in order to follow God's call? How will you claim the boldness, strength, and courage needed to start doing that new thing?
- When have you struggled to trust Jesus through life's trials? What have been the distractions that have caused you to falter? Do you have a quiet place where you can spend time with God, especially when you feel overwhelmed? What practices will help you keep your focus on Jesus when facing life's storms? How do you experience the calm peace offered by Jesus in the midst of challenging seasons? What does it mean for you turn up the volume of faith and turn down the volume of fear?

Daily Household Prayer

O God, the Holy Spirit, come to us, and among us; come as the wind, and cleanse us; come as the fire, and burn; come as the dew, and refresh; convict, convert, and consecrate many hearts and lives to our great good and to thy greater glory; and this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.