

Penns Valley Charge U.M.C. Worship Service for Sunday, August 9, 2020

Facebook live Scripture & message only 8:30am - Phone/online Family Worship 9:45am
Find link on PennsValleyParish.info or call 1-708-713-5876, then enter the PIN: 992 148 847#
[Those without long distance service may be called into worship, contact Pastor Theresa.]

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Last Summer Book Club gathering is Aug. 19 at St. James starting at 7pm. Bring your book and anything you require to enjoy the time together including a lawn chair and water/soda/etc.
- Ladies Coffee & Conversation at St. James Aug. 20 starting at 9:30am.
- Pastor Theresa is on vacation August 24-30. Pastor Valerie Delooze will serve urgent pastoral needs. Pastor Valerie's phone number is 814-880-2367.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, sometimes we forget that you are here with each and every person we seek to reach. Sometimes we forget that no matter what one undergoes in this life, through whatever trial or tribulation, you are there to redeem and reveal mercy and love and in that we hope. Right now. Right here. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE **Dancing for God** Based on 2 Samuel 6:1-19

Verse of the month: Psalm 100:1 "*Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!*"

PASTORAL PRAYER

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

MESSAGE Sibling Rivalry Part 2 - No More Playing Favorites

COMMISSION & BLESSING

Next week we close our Family Reunion summer series with "Forgiveness in the Family"

How to contact the Penns Valley Charge:

Pastor Theresa M. Heiser; theiser@susumc.org; 814-883-9510; PO Box 211, Centre Hall 16828

This Week's Study: The Word is Near You

Read [Matthew 14:22-33](#) and [Romans 10:5-15](#)

As in last week's passage from Matthew, we see Jesus take time to be alone. What is the difference between isolation and solitude? *[In isolation, we feel alone and possibly even abandoned. In solitude, we are confident of our status as beloved, while being assured in our relationships, even as we are not physically present with others.]* How can solitude be a gift?

What did the sea represent for Jews at this time (and many other ancient people groups)? *[The sea was a terrifying place that was absent of God and a source of death.]* How might this explain the disciples' fear in verse 26? How does this also reveal the faith displayed by Peter in verse 28?

Why might it be significant that this story ends with the disciples in the boat worshiping Jesus? *[They were Jews who know only to worship God alone. It reveals their growing awareness of who Jesus was.]*

What do we learn about the disciples from this story? What do we learn about Jesus from this story? *[Jesus has power even over the sea!]*

In Romans 10, Paul counsels his readers that the righteousness of faith is not seen in extraordinary acts (ascending into heaven or descending into the abyss), but by living in faith (v.5). Notice Paul's repetition of the word "proclaim" (or "preach" in some translations). Beyond the assurance that the word is near us (v. 8), Paul is also instructing his readers that they are to be proclaiming the word that is near us. How is this affirmation by Paul that the word is near us, both comforting and a challenge? *[It is comforting that the word is near us. It is challenging in calling us to proclaim it!]*

Why are so many American Christians hesitant to proclaim the hope they've found in Jesus? What might it look like for you to proclaim the good news and have "beautiful feet" (v. 15)?

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God: As we saw in Jesus' rebuke of the winds and waves, we too rightfully fall down in amazement and worship, knowing your power extends over all. May we take comfort in knowing that you are for us and not against us and that your presence is nearer to us than our very breath. Embolden us to be your messengers with the beautiful feet of the gospel message. Amen.