

September 3, 2023
Fourteenth Sunday in Kingdomtide
Freedom from Your Fears
God's Answer to our Anxieties

TODAY'S MESSAGE:
"A Good Ghost Story"

Scripture: St. Matthew 14:22-33 (Common English Bible)

²² Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone. ²⁴ Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. ²⁵ Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed. ²⁷ Just then Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid." ²⁸ Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ And Jesus said, "Come."

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!"

³¹ Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind settled down.

³³ Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You must be God's Son!"

Join Pastor Kip for his "Preaching Today" podcasts featuring each Sunday sermon, and "United We Stand: The Top 10 Reasons I am Proud to be United Methodist," available on Spotify, iTunes, and iHeart Radio.

~ SERMON NOTES ~

In the face of difficult economic times, in the face of declining health, in the face of concern about a loved one dealing with illness, or our children dealing with an assortment of issues, don't be afraid! Christ is with us! That is the message in the scripture for today.

This story has **two vital life lessons** for us that we must not miss:

1. The worst thing we can do in a storm is _____.
One of the most injurious things we can do in the midst of a storm is to lose perspective, look down at the waves, and lose our confidence in the One who loves us.

2. We must keep our _____.
It is in the storms of life we are most likely to discover who Christ is. Don't be afraid. With Christ in the boat all will be well.

