

Worship on November 22nd, 2020

Order of worship

We Gather

- Prelude (Paul T.)
- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture Matthew 14:22-33
- Sermon: Jesus Rescues Peter

We Respond

- Prayer for the people
- Offering (Offertory music – Paul T.)

We Serve

- Benediction
- Postlude (Paul T.)

Ponder Upon Questions

Announcements:

. Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us through this video today. This worship is for Sunday, November 22nd, 2020. Let us worship our faithful God with our sincere hearts.

. To meet and talk to me for the pastor care or any prayer requests, please email me or phone me. revsoonghuh@hotmail.com / 647-208-5381. OR, I am visiting congregants these days. If you want my visit, please let me know.

. Thank you for your offerings. May God bless and multiply our gifts to him.

As we come into the presence of God, let us calm down our hearts and minds and focus on our Lord.

Call To Worship

Our Call to Worship today is from Proverbs 19:21, "The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established." / "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." (Let us pray)

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God most holy, You are known to us as the Almighty, Powerful, Eternal, Ruler and Lord. We call you our Shepherd and Guide. We praise you with many names, but you are beyond our imagination, so much greater than our words. We know you in the stories of Jesus and in him, we see your love in action, reaching out to the world. You move in us and through us by your Spirit, drawing us to

you, sending us to live out your Word. God most holy, Three in One and One in Three, we praise you with our lips and with our lives to offer you honour and love.

Mighty and merciful God, we come with a sincere desire to walk in your ways and live under your reign. Hear us as we confess to you our sins:

We confess that we have failed to love fully, forgive wholly, and to share the joy of your presence day by day. You offer us freedom but we settle for the familiar. You offer risky love but we opt for safer choices. You offer us hope but we prefer knowing what will happen next. Teach us to abandon our selfish ways and cautious service, so that we can risk offering you our whole lives, committed to following Jesus and building your kingdom here on earth.

This time, we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray: (The Lord's Prayer:)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Sisters and brothers, Hear the good news. God's compassion never fails. God's grace is new every morning. God's loving kindness is steadfast. Know that you are forgiven by the grace of Jesus Christ. Forgive each other, and live in peace and harmony. Thanks be to God!

Before we read today's scripture, let us pray for the illumination of the Lord.

Prayer for Illumination:

God of mystery and majesty, your thoughts are not our thoughts; your ways are not our ways. So guide us by your Holy Spirit as we listen for your Word speaking in the scriptures, that we may encounter your Living Word and find our thoughts and ways transformed by your love. Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-27

22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. 25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

This is the Word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.

Title: Ready Action!

The title of today's sermon is "Ready, Action!"

I prepared my sermon to talk about Peter, who walked on the water and fell on the water. I was going to talk about Jesus rescuing Peter. But, when I began to write down my sermon, when giving background information, my mind was stuck on one word, "Immediately." So, I will talk about Jesus rescuing Peter next time, but today, I will talk about Immediate action of Jesus.

The event right before today's passage is feeding the 5,000 people with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. Jesus and the disciples did a lot of work, day and night. The crowd followed Jesus everywhere he went. Not just few people, but the Bible records that Jesus fed 5000. At that time, they only counted men who are old enough and not too old. So, it would be 20 years old to 60 years old. Now, the age does not mean too much, but it was very important back then. So, if it is 5,000 men only, this means about 15-20,000 people in total. So, Jesus and the disciples mingled together with the huge number of people a few days. They tried to dismiss them, but they still wanted to follow Jesus. That is the reason why Jesus had to feed them in the wilderness.

After feeding them, when the evening was coming, Jesus sent his disciples to the other side of the lake by a boat. And he dismissed the crowd. It took few hours. By the night, Jesus went up to the mountain by himself to pray.

We need to remember one thing. Jesus is God, but he was in human body, same as ours. He was tired, he was hungry, he was sleepy, he wanted to lie down and rest. But, also, at the same time, because he was too tired, he went to the presence of God to gain power to overcome his physical tiredness, physical limitedness. After the prayer, after gaining energy from God the Father, he began to walk on the lake to get to the disciples.

While Jesus was approaching, what were the disciples doing? All night long, they were suffering from storm and wind. They were tired from the works from previous days. Many were fishermen. They should be experts on sailing. But, the wind was too strong. Because of the outer circumstance, the strong storm, and the inner tiredness, made them lose their focus from Jesus.

They saw someone or something approaching to them. V26, **"But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear."**

They lived with Jesus for some time by now. They ate together, they slept together, they worked together, they travelled together. They were together, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Meaning that they should be able to recognize Jesus whenever they see him. But, because of the strong storm, their minds were captured by it. Because of their tiredness, their minds went back to their old mindset. They lost focus from something they committed their lives to. They could not recognize Jesus because of the circumstances they were in.

V27, "But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'"

Jesus usually talks with parables and riddles. He asks questions and he gives time to think before he gives all the answers. But, now, Jesus, IMMEDIATELY, IMMEDIATELY, speaks to his disciples. "Take heart! It is I. Do not be afraid."

He knew that it was an emergent situation. Jesus thought the disciples needed him right now. That is why he directly spoke to the disciples this time.

Jesus revealed himself to the disciples IMMEDIATELY. This is very exciting for me to change the direction of the sermon while typing it. Jesus immediately speaking to the disciples was not my main point. But, the word IMMEDIATELY captured my mind. Sometimes, God unexpectedly changes the message. This happens and it encourages me very much. One, God gives me insight as I ponder upon his word. Two, God wants to say something to our church.

Jesus knows us and Jesus knows our situations. Jesus knows the right timing. When you read the gospel, in the conversation between Jesus and the disciples, most of the time, Jesus does not give them the right answers right away. He always makes disciples to think. But, here, in v27, he IMMEDIATELY told them, I AM NOT A GHOST!. IT IS I, DO NOT BE AFRAID.

This is our Jesus. This is Jesus whom we are serving and worshipping. How amazing Jesus we have!

Turn your eyes on Jesus. Let us turn our eyes upon Jesus. He is waiting for us to be ready to listen to him. He is ready to speak to us. Jesus is ready for action, let us be ready for Jesus.

Let us pray.

Loving God, thank you for giving us your message. Thank you for showing us your heart. We are very excited to know you and thrilled to experience you in our lives. When we are in trouble, you don't wait, but you comfort us right away, immediately. You reveal yourself immediately to us. Because we are weak, because we are impatient, because we are captured by other things, you just plainly refresh our focus right away. You make us turn our eyes on you. Thank you. As we live our daily lives, we are sure that there are times we will lose our focus from you. Every time, we are in panic, speak to us. Teach us who you are and turn our eyes to you. We want to fix our eyes on you, alone. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Let us continue to pray for the people of God.

Prayer for the people

There are many who need you. In fact, we all need you. And we all need each other's prayer. So, we stand before you with humble and desperate hearts. As we pray to you, please listen to our prayers and answer us in the way we can understand.

First of all, we are praying for elder election. We need more elders in our church. We pray that you may open their hearts and give them confirmation of serving you. And give them wisdom and discernment, so they understand where you want them to give their services to. Although the building is still closed, we still pray for each other and we still focus on what's going on in each other's life. Help us be connected and help us pray for and build up each other's life.

We pray for the people who are sick. There are some who are hospitalized. Place your hands upon

them right now and with your healing power, with your grace and love, please heal them. We also pray for the people who are troubled with their life's issues. Family, finance, jobs, business, study, relationships, faith, sins, disobedience, and etc. Turn their eyes on you. Fix their eyes on you. Teach your heart, teach your word, teach your will. When they look upon you, may all their concerns become small and come to your presence with thanksgiving and praise.

We pray for individual worship these days. It's somewhat convenient. But, it does not have the same impact as we gather together and worship you with one heart. It is still worship that we are giving our hearts and offering our lives to you. But, still, it does not have the same influence as we gather and experience our togetherness in one place. With the Coronavirus, I know it is not okay to gather in person, but we long to worship you together. We desire the experiences that we had as we worship you freely in church building. We know we must prepare POST COVID church. But, we just miss the past so much. Heaven Father, have mercy upon us and help us worship you whether we worship you together or individually. Whichever we offer our worship to you, you are still glorious and almighty and powerful. Let us offer our best of best worship for you. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time of offering. God has blessed us in Christ and in creation with all that we need to thrive. Yet Jesus' story reminds us there are so many in this world who do not have what they need. What we offer to God today helps the Church reach out to touch lives in need and share the love of God in so many ways. Let the Lord's offering be received.

Offering – Paul's music

Offering prayer: Generous and Gracious God, you envision a world where the hungry are fed and strangers are welcomed. We bring you our gifts to become part of your vision. Bless them and bless us, so that all our gifts bear fruit in Christ's name, and honour him as Lord of our lives. Amen.

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. Usually, many times, we are captured by something. Our minds are busy thinking about things other than Jesus. But, Jesus is always ready for action for us. Let us be ready to listen to him as Jesus speaks to us.

Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.

Ponder Upon Questions:

1. What is one thing capturing my mind preventing me focus on Jesus?
2. What is my circumstance like? What's my outer circumstance? What's my inner circumstance?
3. If I were to be Jesus, what would Jesus say to me?