



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
275 Erb Street East, Waterloo, ON N2J 1N6
519-885-0935 | parkuc@golden.net | parkuc.ca

Sunday, August 13, 2017

Reflection: “Brave and Afraid: The Peter in Us”

Rev. Meg Grieve

LARGE PRINT Bulletins, Voices United Hymn Books and Bibles are available from the ushers.

BULLETIN NOTATIONS:

★ Signal to stand, for those who are able.

VU~Voices United Hymn book **MV**~More Voices Hymn book

Welcome Visitors! We're glad to have you worshipping with us at Parkminster and would like to make sure you feel connected. Please take a few minutes to fill out one of the white information envelopes found in the pews and place it on the offering plate, or put it in the mail slot outside the office. Whether you'd like more information about Parkminster's programs, want to request offering envelopes, or have a question about becoming a member – or whatever else is important to you, we'd love to hear from you! Welcome!

Brave or Afraid

Prelude: “On Wings of Song” *by Felix Mendelssohn*
(flute – Tracie Klaehn)

★ Introit: “Morning Has Broken” ♪ VU #409

Welcome

One: Today we hear the familiar story of Jesus’ walking on water. He comes to comfort his terrified disciples, to calm the storm that has them trembling with fear. We come with our own anxieties, seeking that same comfort in the storms of our life.

Today, we remember our relationship with First People which has not always been healing and empowering. With gratitude and respect, we

recognize the tribes on whose traditional land we make our spiritual home, the Anishnawbe, the Haudenosaunee, and the Neutral. We acknowledge, with regret, that this history has not always been respectful. We commit to just relationship in the present.

All: Seeking true community, we welcome all who have no church home, need strength, and are seeking deep meaning. Welcome to those who have doubts or who do not believe. Welcome to those whose faith is sure, and to those who believe, but who are asking large questions.

One: Welcome to visitors and to familiar friends.

Welcome to grandparents, to mothers, fathers, youth and children, couples, and single people.

All: Welcome to people of all colours, gender identities, abilities, and sexual orientations.

One: Welcome to each who is searching for meaning, who is seeking an understanding of community and what it means to accompany one another.

All: As we come together as church, we turn to one another with gratitude and pray that we will be strong together, faithful together, and loving together. We seek blessing as we welcome the great gift of spirit in us, through us, and among us.

Joys and Concerns

Welcome in the Spirit

★ Children's Song: "Dance with the Spirit" 🎵 MV #156

Story Time

Following the story time, children and youth will leave for Sunday Morning Activities. Happy Learning!

For babies and toddlers, there is the Family Worship Space at the back of the sanctuary. Parents are free to come and go from that space, according to the needs of their children.

Opening Our Hearts

Today, we read the story of the Peter's attempt to walk on water. It is the story of Peter's confidence and desire to feel victory in the storms of life and his fear that the waves are too high and his courage too small.

Breton Fisher's Prayer

Dear God,

Be good to me.

The sea is so wide and my boat is so small.

Is this your prayer?

Prayer

Song 🎵

I am becoming peace.

I am becoming peace,

a well of patience, well of grace,

make my soul a holy place.

I am becoming peace.

Brave and Afraid

Ministry of Music: "For the Beauty of the Earth" arr. Jay Althouse
(duet – Sarah Jewett & Angie Murray)

📖 Scripture: Matthew 14: 22-33 (NT, pg.16)

About Scripture

Today, we read the story of Jesus' walking on water during a storm on the Sea of Galilee. The disciples are in a boat and have set out on the water. Jesus remained behind to pray. Remember that he has just heard the news that Herod has killed his cousin John. Jesus would be feeling his own sorrow at John's death. He would also have been aware that the net of fear and intrigue was tightening around him. This was no time to lose his connection to God.

By the time Jesus is ready to find his friends, a severe storm has blown up on Galilee. Because the sea is relatively shallow, a moderate

wind can create huge and dangerous waves. The disciples, several of whom are fishers by trade, know enough to be afraid of Galilee's power. All of them in that boat knew that they were in peril.

The disciples were panicked and in their panic, they saw Jesus walking toward them on the water. In the midst of the storm, he was calm. He spoke peace into his friends' anxiety. He calmed the storm and he calmed them. "Take heart. It is I. Do not be afraid."

Jesus never promises to take away the storms of life. But he does promise that we will not face them alone. He does promise that holy energy will lift us up and see us through. He asks us, "Why do you doubt?" Why indeed?

We doubt because we are human, because the questions are large and because life is not easy. We doubt because we are still growing into our possibility, as was Peter. One moment he was confident in himself and confident about Jesus. The next moment he wondered how he had gotten into this mess. What was he thinking? His confidence became doubt and doubt made him sink.

What storms are brewing on our Galilee? To whom are we turning? Whose power are we willing to trust? Is there more than sink or swim? And what about the power of love?

Reflection: "Brave and Afraid: The Peter in Us"

★ Hymn: "Outside the Lines"  MV #138

Brave

Offertory: "I'll Walk Beside You" by Alan Murray
(solo – Sarah Jewett)

Dedication: "What Can I Do?"  MV #191

Offering Prayer, said by **all**:

Nothing escapes love's power to transform. No one is unworthy. Nothing is simply impossible.

Today we return thanks for the hope that the holy is in all and that redemption will happen no matter who we are. We offer our gifts for the sake of others and for the sake of the world. Amen

Prayers for the Brave and Afraid

- ★ Hymn: "Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore" 🎵 VU #563
- ★ Commissioning and Blessing
- ★ Sung Blessing "Peace Be with You" 🎵 MV #215

Postlude: "Gigi" *by G.F. Handel*
(flute – Tracie Klaehn)

Thank you to everyone who has offered their gift of time to volunteer in various ways this Sunday:

Ushers: Marilyn Hill & Bud Adams

Greeters:..... Bud Adams & Marilyn Hill

Lay Reader:

Chancel Arrangements: Chancel Committee

Counters:..... Bill & Heather Spall

Juice Hour Host: Darlene Basse & Delores Benedik

The Ministry of Parkminster:All of us

Ministry of Word, Sacrament & Pastoral Care (Interim):

.....Rev. Meg Grieve (ext. 23)

Music Director:Neil Murray (ext. 25)

Office Administrator:.....Melanie Chisholm (ext. 21)

Custodian:.....Allen Switzer (ext. 26)

This week let us pray for:

World Council of Churches Prayer Cycle:

Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger

Hamilton Conference Prayer Cycle:

Westminster United Church (Waterloo Presbytery)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(please refer to the weekly "What's Up" email for a complete listing)

Pastoral Care – Rev. Meg Grieve: If you or anyone in the congregation requires pastoral care or you become aware of someone who might be ill, in hospital or in need of some support, please contact Meg at church, **519-885-0935, ext. 23** or by email at **rev.meg.parkminster@gmail.com**

Thinking of Making Parkminster Your Home? If you would like to transfer your membership from another church or would like to join Parkminster by profession of faith, please connect with Rev. Meg over the summer for more information.

Hardcopy Sermons: If you would like a paper copy of Meg's sermons, please contact the office to have one printed.

Online Bulletins & Sermons: Did you know you can find bulletins & sermons on our website? Just follow these simple steps:

1. Go to www.parkuc.ca (our home page)
2. Place your cursor on the tab that reads "Sunday Worship", sub-titles "Sunday Bulletins" & "Sunday Sermons" will appear
3. click on the item you want - a listing of bulletins/sermons shows in date order
4. click on your selection to view

Neil Murray Night – Tickets Now on Sale!

Saturday, September 30 @ 7:30pm - Navy Club in Waterloo

Cost: \$20 per person; \$10 students/teens. Cash/cheque/pay at the door. You may also buy/reserve tickets from the church office (519-885-0935) or call Bruce Mutton (519-894-1687). Thank you for your support!

Helping First People - "Backpack Program":

With a deep desire for reconciliation, we remember our relationship with First People. With gratitude and respect, we recognize the Six Nations tribes on whose traditional land we make our spiritual home. We acknowledge, with regret, that this history has not always been respectful. We commit to just relationship in the present.

Schools on First Nations reserves continue to be underfunded by as much as 30% compared to what schools for non-Indigenous children receive. Every year *The Healing of The Seven Generations* in partnership with *Anishnabeg Outreach* in Kitchener, work together to provide backpacks for Aboriginal community members in elementary, secondary and post-secondary education settings. The backpack program is no longer receiving the corporate support it once did. If the program is to continue, it will be through the individual support of Indigenous people and their allies. In the past, upwards of 300 backpacks have been distributed throughout the Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, Guelph, and surrounding communities. The program seeks to honour community members who are continuing their journey in schooling, regardless of their age or placement in life!

The backpacks consist of a variety of supplies for students in all types of educational institutions: backpacks, a pair of running shoes, paper, binder, pens, pencils, pencil crayons, markers, pencil case, eraser, pencil sharpener, USB sticks (for the older youth and adults) etc. **All of the items to fill the backpacks are brand new!**

Janet Holland is gathering supplies for backpacks until August 20th, donations of items or funds (make cheques payable to "Anishnabeg Outreach") are most welcome. If you have any questions, please call Janet at 519-746-1992.

*"Wherever there is a human being,
there is an opportunity
for a kindness." ~ Seneca*

Your gift is greatly appreciated.

