



Community UCC, 805 South 6th Street, Champaign, IL 61820
Worship for Ordinary Time 13A Unraveled 2: Peter Sinks in the Water
Live Stream Service
June 28, 2020



Community UCC

We're worth our words
Welcoming Progressive Community
Vibrant Messengers of Hope



Champaign, Illinois

Worship for Ordinary Time 13A Unraveled 2: Peter Sinks in the Water

June 28, 2020

Thoughts before Worship:

Rev. Nadia Bolz-Webber, host of the podcast *The Confessional*, says about our Gospel passage for today, "...this is a story not of morals but of movement. Not of heroes of the faith making their way to Christ but of Christ drawing near to you in the midst of fear." (patheos.com/blogs/nadiabolzweber/2011/08/hello-world/)

Welcome and a Word About Worship

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Today, we continue with our summer worship series from *A Sanctified Art*, called, "Unraveled: Seeking God When Our Plans Fall Apart." What happens when our world, as we know it, falls apart? How do we press onward when our tightly-knit plans unravel into loose threads? What do we become when our identity—or the path we're on — comes undone? What if we start to sink? That's what happened to Peter. Peter takes one step towards Jesus and begins to sink. His confidence unravels right there in the wind and the waves. Fortunately for him, Jesus is there, the boat is there, his friends are there. Fortunately, for us, Christ is always moving towards us. When we are sinking in doubt and uncertainty, let us remember God's outstretched hand. As we continue to gather for worship in the midst of the multi-faceted, epic changes in our world, is it good for us to remember that God is with us. With all this before us, let us settle ourselves down and begin.

(Prayer requests may be submitted by using the Chat Button on Zoom and Commenting on Facebook. These requests will be collected throughout the service and voiced by the Pastor during the Prayers of the People following the Offertory.)

Gathering Music

Be Still My Soul

Brian Clark

Music Composer: Jean Sibelius, arr. Greg Howlett

Call to Worship

Jennifer Robbennolt

God, you are a God of invitation.

You invited Abraham to follow you.

You invited the disciples to drop their nets.

You invited the children to draw near.

You invited Peter to walk on water.

You invited the tax collector to dinner.

You invited the Samaritan woman into eternal life.

Just the same, you invite us to live lives of faith.

Give us the strength to say yes.

Let us worship good and holy God.

We welcome you to our service this morning. Celebrating the diversity of creation, Community United Church welcomes persons of any age, ability, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or life condition. May the Divine Presence become real to you through this time of worship. We hope you come back!

Invocation

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Holy One, as we gather for worship today across the miles, it seems as if everything we know about our lives and the way our world works is unraveled by uncertainty. Some of the uncertainty fills us with hope for real change and transformation, while other parts of it fill us with fear. We come to worship today with much faith and doubt, in distress and yet seeking peace, bearing painful news but proclaiming the Good News. Be with us now, we pray. Amen.

Hymn*Unraveled by Uncertainty*

Stephen M. Fearing for Unraveled

Lead by: Elena Negruta

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*Unraveled by uncertainty, the waters stir our doubt,
Though sea surrounds us on all sides, our faith is in a drought.
When storms arise and weather turns, our balance comes undone,
And right when we think all is lost, God's work has just begun.*

*The boat was battered by the waves, the winds with fury blew.
What once was bad turned quickly worse, their dreadful panic grew.
But through the rain they saw a man who walked upon the waves.
They hoped that he would keep them safe from going to their graves.*

*"Take heart, my friends!" He yelled to them as thunder bashed their ears,
"Fret not, for I AM with you now, God's stronger than your fears."
Then Peter stepped out from the boat, and walked to reach his friend,
But soon distraction took its toll, he started to descend.*

*Then Jesus saw his friend's distress and reached for Peter's hand,
He held him in the savage storm, it ceased at his command.
Then Peter saw his faithful friend, his source of saving love,
He knelt in praise and worshiped God, for strength sent from above.*

*When doctors give the painful news, when memory starts to fade,
When bullets fly and children die, and trust has been betrayed,
Come, Jesus, save us from the depths and hold our hands secure,
When certainty seems but a dream, your steadfast love endure.*

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Children's Moment

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Prelude to Scripture

Jennifer Robbennolt

Whether we take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth, or story, let us listen now to the meaning they might hold for us on this day.

Sacred Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 14:22-33

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 towards them on the lake. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, 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.'

²⁸ Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' ²⁹ He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

Postlude to Scripture

Together, let us say:

May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives.

Hymn of Reflection

O Savior Let Me Walk with You

NCH 503, v 1-3

Led by: Elena Negruta, Xiaoyi Zha
Words: Washington Gladden, Tune: H. Percy Smith

*O Savior, let me walk with you in earthly paths of service true;
Tell me your secret, help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.*

*Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love.
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.*

*Teach me your patience; let me be in closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.*

Message

The Real Miracle of the Story

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Call to Offering

Jennifer Robbennolt

All that we have and all that we are belongs to God. In gratitude for all God has first given to us, we offer our gifts, and we ask God to use them to make the kin-dom manifest among us, even here and even now. As we offer them, bless us, we ask, O God, with your love, your power, and your grace. And, if you have finances to share, go to <https://community-ucc.org/> and click "Donate" so that the ministry of this Community of faith might continue.

Continuing today, we are receiving a LOVE offering for DREAAM House <https://www.dreaam.org/> and UCC Racial Justice Ministries https://www.ucc.org/justice_racism. CUCC will match these offerings from the Mission Reserves up to \$2,000.00. All offerings are being split evenly between these two organizations – it is important to act locally and broadly.

Offertory

The Earth Prelude

Brian Clark

Music Composer: Ludovico Einaudi

Prayer of Prayers of the People

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

- The John Osborne family as they grieve the death of John's mother, [Carmen Rucker](#)
- Sebastian Major
- Jubilee Café Guests
- Violence against our African American siblings
 - Tony McDade
 - Dominique Fells
 - Riah Milton
 - Rayshard Brooks
 - Robert Fuller
- Residual trauma all black and brown people experience every time there is trauma against black and brown people in this country.
- People of our country

Commissioning of the Community

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Closing Hymn

How Can I Keep from Singing

NCH 476 v 1, 2

Led by: Elena Negruta, David Willcox, Xiaoyi Zha

Words and Music by Robert Lowery

*My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn
That hails a new creation; Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul— how can I keep from singing?*

*What though my joys and comforts die? My Savior still is living. What though the shadows gather round?
A new song Christ is giving. No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to the Rock I'm clinging; Since Love commands both
heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

Blessing and Benediction

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

When you find you boat to be small and tossed about, when the seas upon which you travel church, when the winds rage and you are tossed about, when you become afraid and fear-filled, may you be able to see that Jesus is already making his way to you, already walking through the storm to get to you, already bringing you peace. Amen.

Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC

Preacher: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Liturgist: Jennifer Robbennolt

Organist: Brian Clark

Director of Music Ministry: Kathy Lee

Audio/Video: Director of Campus Ministry, Rev Nate Brantingham

Audio/Video: Andy Contreras, Andrew Gupta

Zoom Room Greeter: Elizabeth Shack

CUCC Staff

Pastor: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser leah@community-ucc.org	Parish Associate: Rev. Connie Bandy connie@community-ucc.org
Director of Youth Ministries: Jessica Smiley jessica@community-ucc.org	Director of Music Ministries: Kathy Lee music@community-ucc.org
Childcare Coordinator: Courtney Hayman childcare@community-ucc.org	Organist: Brian Clark
Commissioned Minister of Congregational Health: Linda Morgan lindamorgan@sbcglobal.net	Office Manager: Carla Rush info@community-ucc.org

Your Ministry Team Leaders

-Community Building: Peg Wade and Randy Musser	-Usher Coordinator: Russ Houglund
-Care Team: Jeff & Tina Stovall	-Sound Coordinator: Roger Wade
-Prayer Shawls: Elena Kasper	-Clerk: Shane Brownfield
-Meal Train: Jennifer Robbennolt	-Moderator: Jon Ebel
-Driver's Ministry: Becky Sheridan and John Osborne	Past Moderator: John Murphy
-Card Ministry: Peg Wade	-Incoming Moderator: Elizabeth Shack
-Healing Music Ministry: Marilou Hinrichs	-UCC Campus Ministry Liaison: Ilsa Kantola
-Health and Wellness Team: Doug Irwin	-Pastoral Relations: Cara Finnegan
-Finance: Roger Wade (treasurer), David Willcox (financial secretary)	-Personnel Committee: Anna Barnes
-Mission: Nancy Smith and Ramona Oswald	-Sound & Ethical Practices (SEP): Grant Robbennolt and Kyle Mahannah
-Identity: Keri Evans and (pending)	-Buildings & Grounds: Tom Ward and Matthew Hart
-Children & Family: Julie McClure and (pending)	-Contracts & Insurance: (pending)
-Worship: Chase Skye and Susan Pawlicki	

United Church Foundation (UCC Campus Ministry)

Director of Campus Ministry: Nate Brantingham (nate@ucccampusministry.org)

<http://community-ucc.org/campus-ministry/>

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Community United Church of Christ

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FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 28, 2020

Matthew 10:40-42

Holy Welcome *Open and Affirming Sunday*

Today, on *Open and Affirming Sunday*, we celebrate the United Church of Christ's "Holy Welcome" to the full diversity of LGBTQ+ people. One of the blessings of this work is that our denomination does not go it alone. Consistent with our motto "That they may all be one," we join the welcoming movements of many other denominations in working for full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in houses of worship and faith communities across the nation.

You and others in your church community are invited to join this ecumenical movement, by hosting or attending a "Building an Inclusive Church" training.

According to the Institute for Welcoming Resources (<http://www.welcomingresources.org/communityorg.htm>), *"The Building an Inclusive Church trainings help you design and implement a process for your congregation to publicly and intentionally welcome people of all gender identities and sexual orientations. Building an Inclusive Church equips you with ways to create dialogue, deepening relationships throughout the congregation rather than sparking debate and division.

You will have opportunities to engage through a mix of presentation, hands-on practice, and small group discussion. Many of the tools you will learn come from faith-based relational organizing, such as the one-to-one visit and strategic storytelling. Grounded in scripture and discipleship, this training allows you to explore your own Christian call to hospitality and evangelism.

If you are currently in a welcoming process, if you are thinking about starting a welcoming process, or if you fear what would happen if you began openly discussing a welcome to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, this training could be for you! Feel free to invite your clergy and other members of your congregation to attend with you. And because this curriculum is shared across the ecumenical Welcoming Church Movement, feel free to share this with friends from other denominations."

*Accessed January 2020. <http://www.welcomingresources.org/communityorg.htm>



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