



Rescue Me from Danger
Wandering Heart
February 25, 2024

MEDITATION

“Fear is faith that something
won’t work out.”

– Unknown

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

L: And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **P: And also with you.**

PRELUDE “I Sought the Lord” *based on Psalm 34:4* *music by Frederick Stevenson*

HONORING & BLESSING THE YMCA TEACHERS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Thomas, Deacon

L: God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters,

All: The courageous and the fearful,

L: The hungry and the hopeful,

All: The impatient and the reserved.

L: God welcomes the young and the old,

All: The poets and the prophets,

L: the faithful and the tired,

All: The curious and the convicted.

L: Wherever you are on your journey, wherever your boat is at sea,

All: There is room for all to gather here.

L: This is God’s house.

All: Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.

SUNG LENTEN PRAYER

“Jesus, Remember Me” 3x

In Pew

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Linda Thomas, Deacon

Gracious God, there are days that threaten to swallow us, days when the storms of life feel too big. In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear, spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you. Forgive us for doubting ourselves. Forgive us for doubting you. Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us. With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rev. Christina Williams

Family of faith, no matter what you do, Christ’s love for you is unchanging. Fearful or brave, faithful or doubting, Christ is always walking toward you. So, hear and believe the good news: God’s love is stronger than any storms. On our best days and on our worst days we are seen, forgiven, and loved. God is always walking toward you.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

“How Firm a Foundation”

Black 407

WORD FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Lisa Allen

ANTHEM

“God So Loved the World”

words: John 3: 16-17

Chancel Choir

music by Lloyd Larson

OLD TESTAMENT READING | Psalm 22:23-31

David Kayajan

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS | Matthew 14:22-33

Linda Thomas, Deacon

L: The Word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

“Rescue Me From Danger”

Rev. Christina Williams

*RESPONSIVE HYMN

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Black 472

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

After the pastoral prayer, you are invited to share your joys and concerns. When names are spoken out loud, we are all invited to respond, “O Lord, hear our prayers.”

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. All are invited to sing "Amen". (Black 812)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"The Old Rugged Cross"

Chancel Choir

words/music by George Bennard (1873-1958)

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love had done:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One Amen.

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

As we bring forth our gifts this day—bless them and bless us, O Lord. In trust we offer what is truly yours. We hear your call to follow you and to share your love and hope with all those who are lonely, hurting, and forlorn. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Not My Brother, Nor My Sister"

Black 519

***BENEDICTION**

Take heart.
Do not be afraid.
Trust in the good news of Christ.
You are called.
You are blessed.
You belong to God.
Go in peace.

SUNG BENEDICTION “Come Into His Presence” *words/music by Lynn Baird Chancel Choir*
Come into His presence with thanksgiving in your heart and give Him praise, And give Him
praise; Come into His presence with thanksgiving in your Heart, Your voices raise, your
voices raise. Give glory and honor and power unto Him, Jesus, the name above all names.

POSTLUDE “How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings” *based on Psalm 54 Samuel Liddle*

**Stand in body or spirit as you are able.*

Many thanks to all the volunteers who enrich our morning together!

Linda Thomas, Deacon

Faith Duffy & Amelia Allen, Tech

Members of the Chancel Choir

Sue Long, hospitality

David Kayajan, Reader

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**The altar flowers today are given by Jan King and family
with loving memories of Hal on his birthday.**