

AUGUST 9 - FAITH ISN'T EASY

COMMUNITY WELCOME

- Tawow, Bienvenue, Welcome to this time of worship. While we continue to join remotely in our individual or family places of social isolation and physical distancing, please be mindful that in this moment we are joining in a spiritual way with the entire community of St. Albert United Church and others who are also participating in this same worship opportunity from their homes and places of safe physical distancing.

- Items to gather together before beginning:

➤ ***A Voices United* hymn book if you have one**

- As you and/or your family move through the service, I invite you to read aloud the words of the prayers, readings, etc. Even if you are alone, speaking the words aloud can help internalize and deepen the worship experience. If there are other loved ones gathered with you, I invite you to share the leader parts with all who are comfortable with and able to read.

- In addition, at points in the service below there will be links to YouTube videos of an opening, the All Ages Time, the Message and the closing prayers. There will also be links to some music/sung hymns that unfortunately are not local but are legally accessible on the internet. I have included them because we are all aware that music is such an important aspect of worshiping. When you click on these links you may have to shut down the ads that pop up first and close the link as soon as the hymn is finished before it goes to another that may or may not be appropriate.

WELCOME TO OUR VIRTUAL WORSHIP

[AUGUST 9 Faith Isnt Easy Welcome and Opening Prayers](#)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Copyright 2020 Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.)

One: Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31 NRSV)

All: We need this kind of hope.

One: Come; worship the Holy One who meets you where you are.
Come; open yourselves to the God who lifts us up.

All: We are here to worship; we are here to walk humbly with our God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (in unison) (Copyright 2020 Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.)

God of Presence, as you walked upon the water to meet the disciples, meet us in the midst of the storms in our lives. God of Renewal, as you lifted Peter from the water, lift us from despair to hope, from distraction to focus, from death to life. God of the Journey, direct us in your way, work out your purpose in and through our lives. We pray in the name of Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN: [I Can Feel You Near Me God \(Jump for Joy\)](#)

More Voices 48 Words: Pat Mayberry 2000 Copyright: 2000

TIME FOR ALL AGES: [How Far Is Faith written by Amy Parker reading and prayer by Sharon Ballantyne](#)

HYMN: [I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy with actions](#)

SCRIPTURE READINGS - Please share the reading among those who gather physically with you or out loud to yourself and experience the movement of the Spirit of God within you.

Introduction:

Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28 (The Scripture quotation contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and are used by permission. All rights reserved.)

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him....

Now Joseph's brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." Joseph answered, "Here I am." So Israel said to Joseph, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and

with the flock; and bring word back to me." So Israel sent Joseph from the valley of Hebron.

Joseph came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked Joseph, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," Joseph said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan.

The brothers saw Joseph from a distance, and before Joseph came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured Joseph, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered Joseph out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life."

Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw Joseph into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that Reuben might rescue Joseph out of their hand and restore Joseph to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped Joseph of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took Joseph and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt.

Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell Joseph to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Introduction:

Matthew 14: 22-33 (The Scripture quotation contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and are used by permission. All rights reserved.)

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, Jesus went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, Jesus was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

And early in the morning Jesus came walking toward the disciples on the sea. But when the disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to the disciples and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered Jesus, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.

But when Peter noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, Peter cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught Peter, saying to Peter, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

ANTHEM: [Fresh as the Morning · Tony Alonso](#)

(The words are found at #28 in More Voices)

MESSAGE: [AUGUST 9 Faith Isn't Easy - Message](#)

SHARING OF GIFTS: A THANK YOU AND AN INVITATION

It is with deep gratitude that I give thanks for all the ways so many of you share your gifts of time, connection, prayer, talent and resources with God's people in our church, community and world. The ministry of St. Albert United Church is so much more than the efforts of Rev. Deborah and myself. During the trying months of pandemic restrictions your encouragement and support of each other through phone calls and other means, your continuing work on Council and committees, the remote study and discussions over Zoom, the maintenance of our building and nurturing of our flower gardens, and your dedicated sharing of financial resources, are inspirational reminders that the church is not the building but the church is the people. Thank you for being the church!

Please check the church website for ways in which you can support ministry with time, talents and resources.

<https://stalbertunited.ca/donations/>

(NOTE: At this point the week continued to “go a little side-ways” and so the video had to be spliced at this point. Please read aloud the Offering Dedication and the final Blessing before clicking on our final hymn.)

OFFERING DEDICATION

Holy God pour out your Spirit upon our gifts that they might be transformed into the presence of the living Christ in the midst of the world. In our sharing may your Spirit empower our ministry of lifting the hurting and lonely; inviting others to walk humbly in ways that are life-giving; and joining our community of faith in the purposeful living of God's way of love. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy

Spirit, all glory and honor are yours Life-giving God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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You have been raised with Christ.

Do the work of Christ in the world:

extend a hand to those in need,
speak up for those others would cast aside,
build bridges of reconciliation,
strengthen bonds of community,

and extend the invitation of life, community and purpose to others knowing that the God who created you, the Christ who redeems you and the Spirit who empowers you will be with you this day and ever more. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: [I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky](#)

(The words are found at #509 in Voices United)