

Prelude

Welcome & Prayer

Call to Worship

One: In the midst of all that tosses us to and fro,
In the heart of what makes us most afraid,

ALL: God gathers us together.

One: Grounding us in grace, nurturing our faith,
and drawing upon wells of wisdom, ancient and new,

ALL: our Spirits are renewed in the presence of God.

One: We take heart.

ALL: We share the load together.

One: We trust that fear does not overpower us.

ALL: As God upholds us, we step out in courage.

Gathering Hymn 401

"Here In this Place"

verses 1 and 2

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God of all, we confess that when we are overwhelmed
we do not reach out to you but sink into our fears
and drown in our distrust.**

Reach out your hand to save us.

Breathe your holy breath into our lungs again.

Rescue us and set us above the waves.

We know you can.

Quiet Reflection

Assurance of Grace

One: The love and mercy of God flows from everlasting to everlasting.
Hear and share the good news.

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God.

Our Response to Grace

"The Steadfast Love of the Lord"

refrain 1x

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading - Matthew 14:22-33 NRSV

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Time for Wonder

Order of Worship
Matthew 14:22-33

Walking in the Storm Series
One: "Walking in the Storm"

First Pres. Cedar Falls
June 25, 2023

Sermon

"Take Heart"

Intro to Hymn

The Word in Song

"Unraveled by Uncertainty"
By Stephen M. Fearing

**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.**

Offering Invitation and Dedication

Doxology

Prayers of the People

Specific prayer concerns are listed in the weekly newsletter

The Lord's Prayer

Our Life Together

Sending Hymn 307

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

Charge & Blessing

Postlude