

# **PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH**

*LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE*

**Sermon Date: 07/08/2022**

**Text(s): Matthew 14:22-33**

**Sermon Title: Learning to Trust**

**Preacher: Rev Jonathan Seet**

(The sermon recording is available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

## **READ (5 mins)**

### **Matthew 14:22-33 (NRSV)**

<sup>22</sup> Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup> And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup> but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup> And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. <sup>26</sup> But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

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

### **James 1:2-4 (NRSV)**

<sup>2</sup> My brothers and sisters, whenever you face various trials, consider it all joy, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. <sup>4</sup> And let endurance complete its work, so that you may be complete and whole, lacking in nothing.

### **Romans 5:3-4 (NRSV)**

<sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

### **RELATE (30 mins)**

(Relate to what was shared and on key themes in the sermon)

1. Peter was known for denying Christ out of fear yet God's grace transformed him. Share with one another ways in which God's grace has changed you? Have there been times when you "denied" Christ in your own way perhaps in work or family situations?
2. Jesus also needed breaks from His work and ministry to be alone, praying and processing experiences in His life. Where are you at? Is such a break long overdue?

### **REFLECT (30 mins)**

(Reflect and apply God's word to our daily lives)

1. In vs.22-24 Jesus sent His disciples in the direction of the brewing storm? What does that tell you and how does it impact your faith?
2. Life storms build spiritual muscles through resistance training – how so? Can you reflect on how your own faith, or perhaps fruit of the Spirit grew due to the storms in your life?
3. The disciples mistook Jesus to be a ghost. Have there been times when you missed seeing God's hands at work? How did you finally realize it was God?
4. What is the boat that you need to step out of that you sense in your spirit?

### **REST (15 mins)**

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See **MyPMC > PRAY** for the monthly guide)

- Pray for some of the ongoing struggles or issues faced by individual group members, that were raised during the conversations during the time of relating and reflecting on God's Word.
- Pray for our church to be a people who collectively choose to step out of the boat and take steps of faith in the direction God desires as we forego self-doubt or other hindrances.
- Pray for a major "storm" which could be political, social, ethical, religious, or economic that is shaking Singapore and one other nation your group identifies with.