

### **Call to Worship** Genesis 1:6-8

God said, "Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters to separate the waters from each other."

**God made the dome and separated the waters under the dome from the waters above the dome.**

And it happened in that way. God named the dome Sky.

**We've come to worship God, the Master of Sea and Sky.**

### **Prayer of Invocation**

God of all, we come together in our diversity to proclaim our unity in you. You are the source of all being, the one who is worthy of praise.

**You offer us life, but we refuse because we want life on our own terms. We dread the commitment you command, as well as the images you offer. We worry about our standing among our neighbors, fearing that our belief will seem antiquated, or fanatic.**

**But you are creator. You are the source of all we breathe, eat, and consume. We set aside our allegiances, preferences, desires, so we might raise our voices in prayer and praise. Live among us! Guide us. Grant us your mercy. Amen.**

### **Scavenger Hunt** Where do you see God in the color blue?

Blue Crayons; 'Something Blue' For the Bride at her wedding; Baby Boy Things; The Blue in the Stained Glass Windows - 2; The chair I sit on at church; The swings out back; My Kayak. Blue Ridge Mountains; A Color in the Rainbow; Deep Blue of Twilight on a clear night; Blue shadows in the snow; The Ocean; Lake Superior; Blue Skies; The blue of a cloudless Sky; The many shades of 'sky blue'; Blue Moon written in 1934 by Rogers & Hart;

Blue Bird, Blue Jay, Blue Heron, Indigo Buntings; Blueberries in the Wisconsin Woods; Blueberries, Blue berry muffins, Blueberry Pie; Blue Bunny Ice Cream. Blue Jeans; The Blue Boy – Painting; Little Boy Blue come blow your horn; Babe Paul Bunyan's Ox; Song Sung Blue – Neil Diamond; The blue field in the American Flag; The Blue Angels (planes). Blue eyes 4; My grandson's eyes; My father's blue eyes that have been passed as far as his great-grandchildren.

### **The Word** Matthew 14:22-33

Common English Bible pg. 1190

*Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. **When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone.***

*Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. **Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake.***

*When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed. **Just then Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid."***

*Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water." **And Jesus said, "Come." Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus.***

*But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!" **Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?"***

*When they got into the boat, the wind settled down. **Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You must be God's Son!"***

## **Living the Word**

'Skies and Seas as Blue as Mine'

Pastor Cathy L. Hamblin

Blue is the favorite Color of many/My favorite – Royal Blue Countertops, Blue Steel Roof and I am a Swede!

The Sky - This is my song... My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,  
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.  
But other lands have sunlight too and clover,  
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.  
O hear my song, O God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus coming across the water...

"I'll be perfect just as soon as I get this walking on water thing down."

Peter stepped out and for a moment could stay on top of the water. How many of you have tried to walk on water?

The ocean waves can be beautiful...

Sea of Galilee -8x13 miles, average depth 84 feet, at one time supported 230 commercial fishing boats. The Sea of Galilee is situated in the Jordan Rift Valley, the valley caused by the separation of the African and Arabian Plates. Consequently the area is subject to earthquakes and, in the past, volcanic activity.

## **Mark 4:35-41 Jesus stops a storm**

<sup>35</sup> *Later that day, when evening came, Jesus said to them, "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake."*

<sup>36</sup> *They left the crowd and took him in the boat just as he was. Other boats followed along.*

<sup>37</sup> *Gale-force winds arose, and waves crashed against the boat so that the boat was swamped.*

***The Storm on the Sea of Galilee*** is a painting from 1633 by Rembrandt. It is his only seascape.

<sup>38</sup> *But Jesus was in the rear of the boat, sleeping on a pillow. They woke him up and said, "Teacher, don't you care that we're drowning?"*

Church Book Club - Max Lucado – Book Fearless-

The question: "Teacher, don't you care that we're drowning?"

They don't ask about Jesus' Strength: "Can you still the storm?"

His knowledge: "Are you aware of the storm?"

Or his know-how: "Do you have any experience with storms?"

But rather they raise doubts about Jesus' character:

"Do you not care...?"

Fear does this.

<sup>39</sup> *He got up and gave orders to the wind, and he said to the lake, "Silence! Be still!" The wind settled down and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup> Jesus asked them, "Why are you frightened? Don't you have faith yet?"*

<sup>41</sup> *Overcome with awe, they said to each other, "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"*

Still they are wondering who this person is?

Our own deep blue seas...Times of questioning if God is present or If God can handle the big waves in our lives.

We are all together in the same boat...looking for peace and calm.

Remember: Jesus just stood and said a few words and the sea calmed. He can do the same for us if we just trust enough to ask the right questions...

Then when we learn that we can trust Jesus for our peace and calm, we can be the peace and calm for others.

At the end of each worship as we sing Shalom to each other, sing it as a gift to those around you and then take it out to the people of the world who yearn for peace.