

August 2020
Summer Sermon Series:
Missing Persons & One Line Sermons

One Line Sermons
“Go On Ahead To The Other Side”
or
“Why Do You Doubt?”
August 9, 2020

First Reading ~ *Matthew 14:22-33*

Jesus insisted that the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. Having sent the crowds away, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray, remaining there alone as night fell. Meanwhile the boat, battered by the waves, was far from land, for the wind was against them. At about three in the morning, Jesus came walking toward them on the sea. When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Peter answered him, “If it is really you, tell me to come to you on the water.”

“Come!” Jesus said. So Peter got out of the boat, and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was, he became frightened. He began to sink, and cried out, “Save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught Peter, saying to him, “You have so little faith! Why do you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat showed great reverence, declaring to Jesus, “You are indeed God’s Own!”

Second Reading ~ *adapted from A. Powell Davies*

Let me tell you why I am a part of a church. I am—and I would be whether I was a preacher or not—because I fall below my own standards and need to be constantly brought back up to them. I am afraid of becoming selfish and indulgent, and my church brings me back to what I want to be. I could easily despair; doubt and dismay could overwhelm me. My church renews my courage and my hope. It is not enough that I should think about the world and its problems at the level of a newspaper report or magazine discussion (or nightly news or internet discussion). It could too soon become too low a level. I must have my conscience sharpened—sharpened until it goads me to the most thorough and responsible thinking of which I am capable. I must feel again the love I owe to others. I must not only hear about it, but feel it. In church, I do. I am brought toward my best, in every way toward my best.