

## Patterns of Grace and Gratitude Week 4

Friday, May 7



**“PUMC Stained Glass Window”**

*That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”*

*He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”*

*Mark 4:35-41*

Stained glass windows are fascinating art. Individual small pieces come together to create images. And the images that are formed in the imagination of the viewer are not necessarily the same images the artist had in mind. Nevertheless, the art speaks to both.

This window can be a reminder of the sea, sky, fishnet, and sailboats. There is even the image of the cross in the structure of the window to display the stained glass. The movement suggested by the art could be wind or rays of sun. When set beside this passage from Mark, it is an image of grace. The storm is rampant and fear is prevalent. And yet Jesus has a different view than the disciples. He believes that God is in charge and that all will be well. The disciples (and we) have yet to embody this truth. But Jesus not only models this confidence in the goodness of God, he dispenses God’s grace on this day and calms the storm. That is what grace is. When we are frightened and uncertain, God’s grace is a calm presence showering us with love and reassurance.

What storms in your life could use some of God’s grace today? Watch for God to come and bring peace in the midst of the storm.