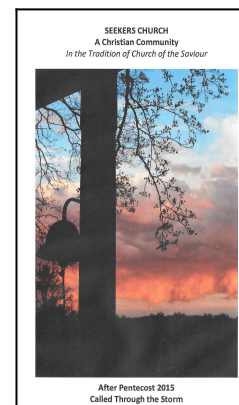


# 2015 After Pentecost – Called through the Storm

## GATHERING



## ENTRANCE

## REFLECTION

The fishermen know that the sea is dangerous and the storm terrible, but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore.

from letter #228 from Vincent van Gogh to his brother Theo  
written at The Hague on or about Tuesday, 16 May, 1882

## CANDLE LIGHTING

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader:

mountains and valleys,  
clouds and bright blue skies,  
every created thing.

People:

markets filled

Holy Maker of sea and land,  
of deserts and forests and  
you call to us from storm  
inviting us to see you in

We see you in gardens and  
with squash and tomatoes,

with berries and peaches,  
with fresh, green herbs,  
with all the good things  
that you give us

to fill body and soul.  
Leader: You call to us in the cries of  
the oppressed,  
in the tears and moans of  
those who grieve,  
in voices raised against  
injustice and violence.

People: We hear your voice in the  
worried sighs of parents,  
sending their children  
into streets filled with danger,  
wondering if they will  
come home alive.

Leader: In times of peace and in times  
of trouble,  
you call us to live as  
your new creation:  
one multi-colored family,  
walking together by faith.

All: In the name of Christ  
and in the power of the  
Holy Spirit,  
we sail on unknown seas.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

### **HYMN**

### **WORD FOR THE CHILDREN**

### **SILENCE**

## **PRAYERS**

### **CONFESSION**

Leader: Holy God, you call us to trust  
you in every storm,  
including those around us and

those within us.

People: We respond with self-centered  
fear,  
trusting only in our own  
efforts.

Leader: You have taught us to love our  
neighbors as ourselves,

People: We huddle in the bottom of the  
boat,  
refusing to reach out our  
hands

to those who are drowning.

Leader: We pray to you for freedom,  
justice and peace,

People: We clutch the life jackets to  
ourselves,  
defending our safety with  
our own weapons

of thought, word, and  
deed.

Leader: We forget that you can calm the  
stormy seas.

All: Holy Creator of all,  
forgive us when we fail to trust,  
and when we fail to love.

## ASSURANCE

Leader: The God of grace and mercy

carries us through the  
stormy seas.

We are forgiven even  
before we ask.

All: Amen.

## THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

## INTERCESSION AND PETITION

## COMMITMENT

All: O Holy One, we come today  
to claim our relationship with you.  
We pray for the commitment to grow together,  
sharing the gifts you give us with others  
here and in the wider world.  
Forgive us for the hurt we have inflicted,  
and help us forgive those who have hurt us.  
Give us strength and discipline  
to nurture our relationship with you;  
to care for every part of your creation;  
to foster justice and be in solidarity with those  
in need;  
to work to end all war, and violence, and discord;  
and to respond joyfully when you call,  
freely giving our selves as you have shown the way.

We open our hearts to you and your  
creation

in the name of Jesus, who is the Christ.  
Amen.

## HYMN

## **THE WORD**

SCRIPTURE

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

## **OFFERING**

### **COMMUNION**

#### PREPARATION

Leader 1: This is the table of the Heavenly Feast,  
the joyful celebration of the people of God.

Leader 2: We gather now as one body, joined around the  
table.

Here we celebrate God's presence among us  
united in Christ's spirit, broken and whole all at  
once;

All:                   Nourished and hungry, loved and loving,  
sinner and forgiven; we make one circle of  
knowing,  
believing, rejoicing, being,  
as God lights and rests among us.

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader 1: God of stormy afternoons that roil the seas,  
we give you thanks for your holy  
enlivening power  
that flows in us and around us and  
through us,  
giving form and life to all creation.

People:     We give thanks  
for the life, death, and resurrection  
of Jesus Christ,  
who shows us how to face into the wind  
and stay on course.

Leader 2: We give thanks for the Holy Spirit,  
filling us anew with unexpected love

and understanding,

and the commitment to walk through the storm.

People: We give you thanks for your Holy Church,  
the vessel that carries us, together,  
to an unfamiliar shore  
where you have set a table before us  
in joyful celebration of your call.

#### BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

Leader 1: Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of life,  
to drink the cup of the new covenant.

Leader 2: Jesus said, I am the bread of life.  
You who come to me shall never hunger,  
You who believe in me shall never thirst.

Leader 1: On the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread,  
and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said,  
This is my body,  
broken for the healing of the world.  
Whenever you eat it, do so remembering me.

Leader 2: After supper, Jesus took the cup and said,  
This is the cup of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for all.  
Whenever you drink it, do so remembering me.

All: O Holy One, send down your Spirit  
that these gifts of bread and cup  
may be for us the body and blood of Christ.  
Unite us with Christ forever  
and bring us with the whole creation  
to your eternal realm.

#### SHARE THE ELEMENTS

If you do not wish to receive the elements today you are welcome to join the circle and allow them to pass, or remain in your seat. We serve grape juice in our cups.

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

All: God of abundance and mercy,  
we give joyful thanks

for your eternal love and healing presence  
in our celebration of bread and cup.  
Bless this body of Christ  
that we may attend faithfully  
to our call to be your servants,  
with each other and throughout the world.

All: Amen.

### **SHARED REFLECTIONS**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **HYMN**

### **BENEDICTION**

Leader: Knowing that the sea is dangerous and the storm  
terrible,

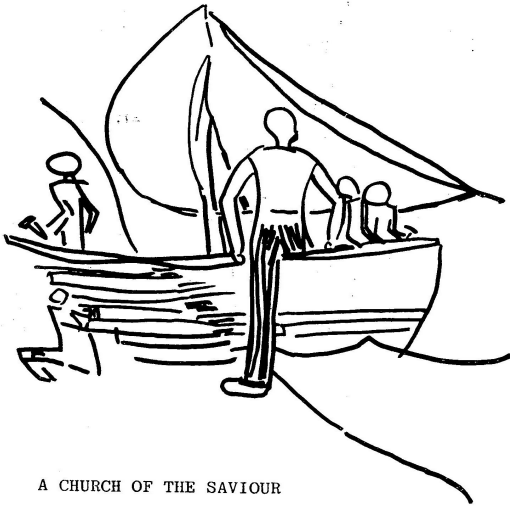
Launch out with courage and faith,  
assured that even as the winds howl  
and the waves surge,  
The Spirit is beside us.

Let us greet one another with signs of  
peace,

reminders that Jesus is in the boat with  
us.

People: Amen.

# THE SEEKERS



A CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR

FAITH COMMUNITY

“Although this boat (the Seekers Church) is not completely formed, some members are ready to launch out. There are some who have not made a firm commitment and some who are busily striving to make it sea worthy. The sail is fully open to receive the wind of the spirit.”

April 17, 1977

Hariette Mohr

Founding Member of Seekers Church