

# A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

## "Safely to Shore" 1/19/22

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; (Isa 43:2)*

I love water metaphors. I often feel like I'm lost at sea. I'm always going against the current. I'm alone in my boat. God talks about water a lot in scripture. The earth was covered with water. People were always going into the water. They escaped Egypt and slavery through the rivers of the Red Sea. They entered the promise land through the waters of the Jordan. Many of Jesus' disciples were fishermen, they made their living on the water. Jesus walked on water, stilled storms at sea, turned water into wine. Many of Jesus' teachings were set on the water. Lessons were learned, miracles performed, illustrations were made in - and on the water. Jesus is for us living water.

Water is important, no, is required for life. Water is essential for civilization. People gathered by the water, here they built cities, transferred goods, fished for food.

Water can be a site of peaceful recreation, a necessity for commerce, and a place of danger. A Captain will place their ship in the capable hands of a pilot, who will guide their ship around sand bars, under-water obstacles, and treacherous currents as the ship enters a harbor or the mouth of a river.

So, it is with us, we place our lives in the hands of God and ask God to pilot us through life's tempestuous seas. We remember how Jesus stood up in the boat and addressed the waters saying, "Peace, be still." We remember God telling us He will be with us when we pass through the waters and they will not overwhelm us.

Peaceful seas, sunset sails, lazy days at the beach. Hurricanes, tsunamis, unreadable waters. We enter the waters of life and put our faith in God. Turning over our very lives, as the captain turns over their ship, over to the One who knows the pitfalls and who takes away our fears. We place ourselves in the hands of the Holy Spirit who comes to us in the waters of baptism, promising to accompany us through the storms of life and bring us safely to shore.

**Pray with me:** Creator God, You created water, sustain us by water, and You ride the tides with us. Thank You for relaxing times by the water and for Your presence as we sail in storms. We turn ourselves over to You, to pilot us safely to shore. **Ahoy and amen.**