

Fear Not, For You Are Known
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost • June 21, 2026

This Sunday brings together three powerful moments in our life of faith: the courage of Pentecost, the promise of baptism, and the gift of fatherhood.

In Matthew 10, Jesus speaks honestly about discipleship. His words are not soft, but they are full of truth: following Him will sometimes unsettle our lives and challenge our loyalties. Yet three times He says, “Do not fear.” Not because the world is easy, but because we are held and known by God—down to the hairs on our heads.

Baptism reminds us of this identity. It is more than a blessing; it is a new beginning, a turning from fear toward the freedom of life in Christ. When we baptize a child, we declare that they belong to God and to a community committed to teaching courage, mercy, and hope.

Father’s Day adds its own layer of grace. At its best, fatherhood—biological, adoptive, spiritual, or communal—is a calling to courageous love. Christian parents and mentors help children grow into the kind of faith that can stand with the vulnerable and live without fear.

Jesus’ final promise in this passage is simple and strong:

Those who lose their life for His sake will find it.

It is not a threat—it is an invitation to trust, to love boldly, and to follow Him with confidence.

May this Sunday remind us that we are known, we are loved, and we are never alone.

Rev. Len Ripley