

Sunday 9th August 2020

Call to worship

As Jesus went up a mountain to pray so we come together in God's presence, to pray and to worship. We come from lives that are stormy or calm, rough or smooth, far from secure and rather becalmed. Jesus calls us to come. He calls us to follow him into the difficult waters of life. We need have no fear as he takes our hand, lifts us and saves us. He truly is the Son of God and we come to worship him.

Opening Prayer

We come this day to worship You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Open our hearts, to receive Your love, our souls to receive Your Spirit and our minds to know to Your truth. For Your glory. **Amen.**

Hymn: StF 51 Great is thy faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be:
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love:

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960)

Let us pray together

A prayer of adoration

Blessed are you Lord our God, king of the universe, you come to us in our need, comfort us in our fear and rescue us when we are sinking. We offer you the praise of our thankful hearts.

A prayer of praise

God of grace, we praise You. We praise You for who You are: creator, faithful, rescuer, and holy. We praise that You even though we cannot be with others to worship You, we can feel that You are here in our hearts. We praise You, for all the blessings You have given us. For

family, for friends, for a relationship with You. Help us not to take You for granted. God of grace, as we worship You this morning, help us to be transformed by Your love, and in the power of Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

A prayer of confession

God our redeemer, when we are too proud to admit our fears, **forgive us and give us your humility.**

When we lack the courage to face our fears, **forgive us and give us your strength.**

When we are too busy to reach out to others in the time of their fear, **forgive us and give us compassion.**

When we try to go it alone, **forgive us and draw us back into the community of faith.**

All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

Hymn: StF 481 The Lord's my shepherd

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

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Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

Time to Reflect

I am sure we can all relate to Peter. Throughout the gospels we get a picture of someone who does not always think before he speaks, if we take Peter's confession in Matthew 16:13-20 and think – did he rush his confession of faith or not? Only a few verses later Jesus rebukes him.

And it is the same in this reading. Peter is singled out while the others stay in the boat.

Jesus says to his disciples 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid' when he walks on the water to the disciples in the boat. Should this have been enough for Peter as it was for the others? No, Peter being Peter, wants to try and walk on the water.

Perhaps, the message today, for us, is one of trust as we journey as disciples through these difficult times? Jesus says to us, as he said to Peter, "Take heart, it is I: do not be afraid".

Take a time to sit quietly

Hymn: StF 439 – Abba Father

Abba father, let me be
Yours and yours alone
May my will forever be ever more your own.
Never let my heart grow cold,
Never let me go,
Abba Father, let me be
Yours and yours alone.

A time of prayer

Almighty God, we come now to pray for Your world. Your world which is full of brokenness, injustice, and inequality. We bring before You the rulers of the world, local or national, and pray that they would remember that all power comes from You.

Almighty God, we pray for your church. We pray that during these times we would unite in worship and service. We pray for our churches, and our ministers, that they would be strengthened by Your Spirit.

Almighty God, we pray for those known to us and name them before You. And, we pray for ourselves, that we would be transformed by Your Spirit, and live in the love which You have given us through Jesus. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: StF 611 Brother, sister let me serve you

Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

A prayer of blessing

As this time of worship ends,
and we enter into the storms of life,
and the uncertainties which may come,
may we take heart that Jesus is present,
and ever live for His holy name.
Amen.

Now we will say the grace together - The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore Amen.

Original Materials by Matthew Ramsden,
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