

Sunday 9 August 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

I come this day to worship You,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Open
my heart, to receive Your love, my
soul to receive Your Spirit and my
mind to know to Your truth. For
Your glory. Amen.

**Hymn: StF 51 Great is thy
faithfulness**

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the
words or listen to it here
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTKlqmdfHSk>

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

God of grace, I praise You. I praise
You for who You are: creator,
faithful, rescuer, and holy. I praise
that You even though I cannot be
with others to worship You, I can
feel that You are here in my heart.

I praise You, for all the blessings You have given me. For family, for friends, for a relationship with You. Help me not to take You for granted.

God of grace, as I worship You this morning, help me to be transformed by Your love, and in the power of Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today's Gospel Reading:

Matthew 14:22-33 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, ^[a] for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come."

So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, ^[b] he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God".

Copied from Bible Gateway and last accessed on 22 June 2020.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+14%3A22-33&version=NRSV>

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

A time of prayer

Almighty God, I come now to pray for Your world. Your world which is full of brokenness, injustice, and inequality. I 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, I pray for your church. I pray that during these times we would unite in worship and service. I pray for my local church, and its ministers/pastors, that they would be strengthened by Your Spirit.

Almighty God, I pray for those known to me and name them before You. And, I pray for myself, that I would be transformed by Your Spirit, and live in the love which You have given me through Jesus.

In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer by Keith & Kristyn Getty

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLr5Y_vW3wA

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

A prayer of blessing

As this time of worship ends,
and I enter into the storms of life,
and the uncertainties which may come,
may I take heart that Jesus is present,
and ever live for His holy name.
And may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with me, and those whom I cherish in my heart, now and always.
Amen.

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