

Service at Home

Sunday 9th August 2026

Holding onto Hope!

Call to Worship:- Come to the One who is always holding out his hands to us, who is always ready to welcome us, who is always longing to embrace us. Let's come together to God our Father and celebrate his goodness. Amen

Hymn: And can it be (STF345)

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| 1 | And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood ?
Died he for me, who caused his pain ?
For me, who him to death pursued ?
Amazing love ! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me ? | 'Tis mercy all, immense and free ;
for, O my God, it found out me ! |
| 2 | 'Tis mystery all : the Immortal dies !
Who can explore his strange design ?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all ! Let earth adore,
let angel minds enquire no more. | 4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night ;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray —
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light,
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee. |
| 3 | He left his Father's throne above —
so free, so infinite his grace —
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race. | 5 No condemnation now I dread ;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine !
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my
own. |

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

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Prayers:

Lord God,
We give glory to your Holy name,
director of our hopes and dreams.
With our lips we express adoration,
rejoicing in your wonderful acts.
Your mighty deeds work all our trials
to your purposes.
In our hearts, we praise and adore our glorious King.

Lord God,
forgive us for wanting to be better than others.
Forgive us for seeking or showing favouritism
and putting others down;
for wanting what others have
and being jealous of those who have more;
for selfish resentment towards those who have gained success.
Forgive us for fuelling unrest with our words or actions

and for letting others do our dirty work for us to deflect blame.
Lord God, we are sorry.
Grant us your wisdom in thought, word, and deed.
Help us live in the knowledge that we are all equal
in your eyes.
Lord God, forgive us.

We proclaim the name of Jesus.
Because of Jesus Christ, we have no more debts.
By accepting his love and believing in his death and resurrection,
we are set free from the shackles of sin.
We are forgiven and free to live and love.
Amen.

Background - We heard last week how Jesus fed the 5,000 and how, when everyone had eaten and had sufficient, the disciples still were able to collect left overs – 12 baskets full! Now we hear what happened next!

Reading ; Matthew 14.22-33

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

²⁸ “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

²⁹ “Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Amen thanks be to God for his word

Hymn: What a friend we have in Jesus

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear !
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer !
O what peace we often forfeit,

O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer !

2 Have we trials and temptations,
is there trouble anywhere ?

We should never be discouraged :
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share ?
Jesus knows our every weakness :
take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care ?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge —
take it to the Lord in prayer !
Do your friends despise, forsake you ?
Take it to the Lord in prayer ;
in his arms he'll take and shield you,
you will find a solace there.

Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1819–1886)

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Talk: I don't know about each of you but I always 'hope' I can cope with everything and have never learnt to say 'No' and always say 'Yes' when asked to do something or help. I then realise that I have fitted in far too much in and wonder how I can going to cope but hope I can! I then forge forward but am very aware that the good Lord reaches out his hand frequently to enable me to get through – suddenly a phone call to say a meeting has changed or someone else can help and I am not needed.

As we heard in our reading, Peter was his usual impulsive self and wanted to walk towards the Lord and then doubted that he could do it. I do so concur with Peter! Always wanting to try but often wondering if I can succeed!

Life is very much like that. It is full of difficulties and troubles and sometimes we cannot see a way through. We can feel very much under pressure and stress about things. As it says in Matthew 6: verse 27, which are part of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount where he teaches about not worrying, reminding listeners that anxiety cannot extend life and that each day carries its own trouble. In Verse 27 Jesus says "Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"

We also need to heed what Paul says in Philippians 4: Verse 6: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." How true, but do we do that? Do we instantly, when faced with a difficulty, turn to prayer and ask for God's help? Again Paul tells us in 1 Peter 5: Verse 7 "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

There are so many reminders in the Bible to rely on God's love which is not only with you today, but forever in all we do. So when we are feeling worried or stressed or sad, remember these words and turn to God in prayer aware that he opens his arms with love to bring you that wonderful peace which only he can give,

Amen

Prayers of intercession:

Lord and Father, we come to you, with our prayers for the World. We thank you for this wonderful World in which we live and for the beauty of your creation.

We pray for all those who are suffering in the World from natural disasters and in the wild fires which are happening in different countries and pray that you will be near each person who these are affecting and pray that they will feel your power and your love in their lives.

**Lord, when the storms get close:
save us, lift us, and help us keep our eyes fixed on you.**

Lord and Father, we bring those to you who are suffering from bereavement, who are lonely and sad and pray that they can feel your loving care bringing them comfort in their distress.

**Lord, when the storms get close:
save us, lift us, and help us keep our eyes fixed on you.**

Lord and Father, we pray for all those who are suffering from ill health and are worried about treatment and their future. Wrap them in your loving arms and bring them your peace

**Lord, when the storms get close:
save us, lift us, and help us keep our eyes fixed on you.**

Lord and Father, we pray for all the areas of the World where there is trouble and fighting where there is disaster and we pray you will be among those who are suffering in all things.

**Lord, when the storms get close:
save us, lift us, and help us keep our eyes fixed on you.**

Father, we know you are there in all aspects of our life and that we can turn to you with our worries and concerns – thank you that you are always there for each one of us.

Amen

Now let us join in **the Lord's prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil For thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory for ever and ever Amen

Hymn: Will your Anchor Hold (STF 645)

1 Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
when the clouds unfold their wings of
strife ?

When the strong tides lift, and the cables
strain,
will your anchor drift, or firm remain ?
*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll ;
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's
love !*

2 Will your anchor hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers roar and the reef is
near ?

While the surges rave, and the wild winds
blow,
shall the angry waves then your barque
o'erflow ?

3 Will your anchor hold in the floods of death,
when the waters cold chill your latest
breath ?
On the rising tide you can never fail,
while your anchor holds within the veil :

4 Will your eyes behold through the morning
light
the city of gold and the harbour bright ?
Will you anchor safe by the heavenly shore,
when life's storms are past for evermore ?

Priscilla Jane Owens (1829–1907)

Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number 645

The blessing

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all this day and evermore Amen.

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