**Worship Sheet for Sunday 9th August 2020**

**Entering God’s presence**

Take a moment to notice how you are as you come to worship. How have encountered God this week? Surrounded and enfolded by God’s love may you receive all that you need and release all that can be let go into God’s hands. Just be, and know that your being is enough.

**Hymn: Give me the faith (STF 661)** – read/pray/listen to it here <https://youtu.be/Am_ZMcRLLcs>

Give me the faith which can remove

and sink the mountain to a plain;

give me the childlike praying love,

which longs to build thy house again;

thy love, let it my heart o’erpower,

and all my simple soul devour.

I would the precious time redeem,

and longer live for this alone:

to spend, and to be spent, for them

who have not yet my Saviour known;

fully on these my mission prove,

and only breathe, to breathe thy love.

My talents, gifts, and graces, Lord,

into thy blessèd hands receive;

and let me live to preach thy word,

and let me to thy glory live;

my every sacred moment spend

in publishing the sinners’ friend.

Enlarge, inflame, and fill my heart

with boundless charity divine:

so shall I all my strength exert,

and love them with a zeal like thine;

and lead them to thy open side,

the sheep for whom their Shepherd died.

© Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

**Prayer**

God of earth and sky, wind and waves, you would more than meet our every need - we worship you;

Saviour you accompany us beyond the harbour of safety into the deep waters of life – we worship you;

Spirit bringing calm in the midst of chaos, hope in despair, direction in our drifting – we worship you;

Holy God we’re sorry for the times we take our eyes off you, when we fail to heed your call, when our trust wavers. Enfold us in your loving presence especially when we need it most and grow our trust in you.

Regardless of how we have come to worship today that you that hold on to us with a grip that will never let us go. In that assurance may we rest in your love and abide in your care. Through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**God’s word:** Read one or more of these passages and allow time and space for God to speak though his word: 1 Kings 19: 9 -18, Psalm 85: 8 -13, Romans 10: 5 - 15, Matthew 14: 22 - 33.

**To savour:** Read the following slowly and be attentive to God’s accompanying you. What resonates? What is God’s invitation to you?

**A sufferer**

I've known suffering. Sometimes I dream I'm in that boat. Tried, tossed about by troubles, wondering where Jesus is. Jesus, where are you in all this, come, come walking to me over these waters, let me see you … where are you, you're late, so late, where are you? I'm waiting. Why this silence? I'm going to capsize, I'm peeping into the abyss. What good will it do to be swallowed up by the sea?

Then, as I think of this story in the middle of the night, unexpectedly I think I see your shadow come, walking on those waves which disturb me so, the liquid surface holding up your feet like a rock. I dare think if you command your creation, you can command my circumstances. Rescue me or help me to endure.

I feel my heart begin to stir. Where you go I might follow. Keep my head above water. But for you to walk on the sea is one thing, to expect a poor weak disciple like me … Yet I hear a voice. I want to try.

I walk boldly a little way. Yes, I do, a little way. You actually help me walk a few steps. In my childish mind I'm celebrating, telling everybody about it, what a story! Now I'm closer to you than when I was in the boat, it should get easier. Then I feel the boisterous wind, and the waves so mesmerising. I forget my first steps, past proofs of your goodness and power. I'm swept away by waves of emotions and thoughts and fears. I give way to the substantial presence of pain. Like Peter I take fright, stop looking at you and begin to sink. I've failed, you've abandoned me and I'm back looking into the depths.

But in the story you deal with Peter so gently, not like the violence of the elements. At once you stretch out your hand to save him, with a motherly reproof. Doubting doesn't prove I have no faith, only that my faith is small. But I'm touched by your mildness and I learn not healing or composure but an unexpected truth. Tomorrow I'll remember your gentleness with my failure.

Just a story. But it has meaning. I ponder it in the watches of the night.

(From Roots, ‘Bridge over Troubled Waters’)

**Look and think:**

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Does this image speak to you of faith or doubt?

What steps of faith has God invited you to take recently?

How might we be less risk-averse as part of the Body of Christ?

Where in your life, do you feel God may be whispering, ‘Get out of the boat?’

**Prayers of intercession** (from ‘The Vine’ material; ©David Adams)

Lord, in the storms of life, bid us come to you, that we, who are aware of our weakness, may be made strong;

through the power of Christ our Lord. Amen.

When we are in danger of being overwhelmed, increase our faith. When troubles beset us, let us hear you say, "Take heart, it is I: do not be afraid." Give to your church a new vision of yourself and of your saving power. Go with us as we go out to proclaim your love.

We pray for areas where the church is struggling or being overwhelmed, for all evangelists and pastors who are overworked or in danger. We pray for all who reach out in faith towards you.

Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

We pray for areas of the world where there have been floods or other natural disasters, for all who are swamped by poverty or hunger, for all who are battered by wave after wave of oppression or violence, for those who have no freedom, for all who are sinking beneath a load of care and anxiety.

Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

We give thanks for all who have supported us in times of trouble or distress. We pray for friends who are in need at this time. We pray that we will not be a burden to any, but a strength. We remember all who are finding caring for their home overwhelming.

Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

We pray for all who are down, the fearful, the weary, the despairing. We pray for all who are unable to help themselves. We remember all who give a helping hand. We pray for carers, home helps, social workers. We remember those who are suffering in their care of another.

Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Though our faith is weak, we reach out to you, for you are almighty. Grant that we may come to be with you in life eternal. Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

**Listen & Sing:**

In my life, Lord, be glorified <https://youtu.be/e5bpU3hzMXs>

Will your anchor hold <https://youtu.be/UQQO8v-0VBo>

I heard the voice of Jesus say <https://youtu.be/cSSiEixBt8E>

You call me out upon the waters <https://youtu.be/6GGFb6LcX3U>

**Family worship for Sunday** (for family worship: [**www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome**](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome)**9aug**)

**Blessing:**

Go now and live in the righteousness that comes from faith. Delight in seeking the Lord. Recount what God has done and proclaim the good news of Christ so that all may hear and believe and be saved.

And may the power of the presence of God be with you. May Christ’s word be near you, on your lips and in your heart. And may the Holy Spirit give you courage and calm all your fears. Amen.

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‘The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.’ Philippians 4: 5 – 6