



# The Sunday Supplement

Issue 21: 8th August 2020

## Call to Worship

We gather to worship God,  
who comes to us when we least expect it,  
who calls us out of the safety of our sheltered lives  
and invites us to join Him in the adventure of faith.  
Let's worship God together!

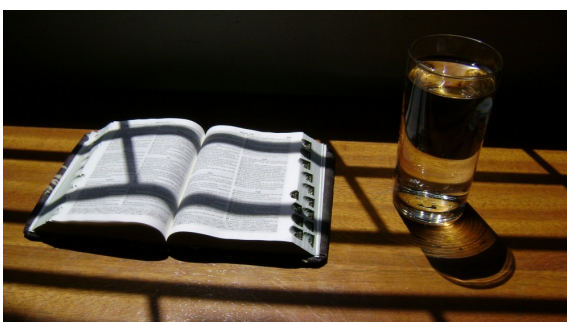
## Prayer

Lord, our God,  
where is there another God like You—  
a God of justice and unfailing love,  
who stands by every promise made to His  
people,  
generation after generation?  
There is no other.  
You alone are God.

And so we gather to worship You:  
to give You thanks,  
to proclaim Your greatness,  
to sing Your praise,  
to seek Your face,  
and to celebrate Your faithful presence  
with us.

We pray that Your Spirit would guide and  
inspire our worship.  
Open our ears to hear Your Word,  
open our eyes to see to You at work  
among us,  
open our hearts to receive Your love.

We offer ourselves to You, in the name of  
Jesus Christ,  
our Saviour and Lord.  
Amen.



## Reading

Matthew 14:22-33



## Prayer of intercession

God,  
You have called us to be a people of prayer -  
to continue the ministry of intercession  
handed on to us  
by Jesus Christ Himself.

And so we come before You with  
confidence,  
bringing our prayers for the world You love.  
In Your mercy, hear and answer.

We pray for those who, like Jesus' disciples,  
find themselves surrounded by high winds  
and stormy seas;  
those who feel overwhelmed by events and  
circumstances -

the loss of a job,  
the death of a loved one,  
serious accident or illness,  
chronic pain,  
depression,  
or divorce -

and who don't know where to turn.

We pray for those who are experiencing a  
crisis of faith;  
who long to whole-heartedly trust in God  
but are held back by questions and doubts.

We pray for those who have fallen into  
despair;  
who have begun to doubt God's presence and  
power;  
or question God's call in their lives.

We pray for those who have had their hopes  
and dreams crushed;  
those whose lives have suddenly taken a  
different turn,  
and who now wonder what lies ahead for  
them.

Loving God, it is not Your will that any should  
suffer.

We offer our prayers for all those who hunger  
and thirst,  
those who live in the midst of violence or  
poverty,  
and those who feel abandoned or ignored by  
the world around them.

Through the life-giving power of Your Holy  
Spirit,  
make Your sustaining presence known to all  
who are in pain or need,  
so that they, too, may know Your love and live.

In the name Jesus Christ, our Saviour,  
who lives to intercede for us,  
Amen.

## *Thought for the week*



For over a hundred and fifty years the Met Office has issued warnings of bad weather several times each day. The phrase that begins the Radio Four bulletin has become famous. 'And now the Shipping Forecast', begins the announcer, before beginning the list of conditions in the mysterious sea areas of Tyne, Dogger, Rockall and the rest.

Britain is an island nation with a long maritime history. In the days before boats were equipped with onboard technology the shipping forecast was essential to ships of all kinds. Even today the daily broadcast helps seafarers confirm the data generated by onboard systems. The weather can change quickly at sea. The lives and safety of all on board depend on accurate and up to date information about the weather around our coasts.

At least four of the named disciples of Jesus were fishermen. Simon Peter. Andrew, James, and John knew Lake Galilee well. They would have been all too familiar with the sudden storms that arise in the area. Unlike Britain's fishermen, they relied only on what they could see and sense of the weather. Crossing the lake after Jesus had miraculously fed a crowd of thousands, they found themselves caught in a storm. Struggling to bring the boat to shore, with their vision obscured by wind and rain, they saw what seemed to be a ghost. They were, understandably, terrified.

What happened next completely changed their understanding of who Jesus was. Up to the moment when Jesus walked on water, he was in many ways just one in a line of teachers, miracle workers and healers. A character like the prophets of old but still a human being. His ability to rise above the storms of the natural world marked him out as something else. Jesus was not just a messenger from God, he was the Son of God himself.

On that day, twelve frightened men in a boat saw their teacher in a new light. As Jesus reached out to prevent Peter being overwhelmed by the waves, they learned that with Jesus, Son of God, anything was possible. They fell to their knees and worshipped God in their midst. As those who follow in the steps of the first believers this message is one that brings both reassurance and challenge.

In recent months the changes in our world have at times seemed overwhelming. As the situation evolves in the coming weeks and months there will be yet more uncertainties and changes to negotiate. The promise of God to those who follow Jesus in faith is that the storm need not overwhelm us. Jesus, Son of God, himself stretches out his hand and raises us to our feet. There is nothing to fear for those who have the faith to follow where he leads.

# Oceans (Where feet may fail)

You call me out upon the waters  
The great unknown where feet may fail  
And there I find You in the mystery  
In oceans deep  
My faith will stand

*And I will call upon Your name  
And keep my eyes above the waves  
When oceans rise  
My soul will rest in Your embrace  
For I am Yours and You are mine*

Your grace abounds in deepest waters  
Your sovereign hand  
Will be my guide  
Where feet may fail  
And fear surrounds me  
You've never failed, And You won't start  
now

*So I will call upon Your name...*

Spirit lead me where my trust is without  
borders  
Let me walk upon the waters  
Wherever You would call me  
Take me deeper than my feet could ever  
wander  
And my faith will be made stronger  
In the presence of my Saviour

Oh, Jesus, you're my God!

I will call upon Your name  
Keep my eyes above the waves  
My soul will rest in Your embrace  
I am Yours and You are mine

(Joel Timothy Houston, Matthew Philip Crocker, Salomon Ligthelm)

Sarah Raymond chose "Oceans (Where feet may fail)" for this week's Sunday Supplement.

I would like to pick Oceans by Hillsong for one of my favourite songs. I have always loved this song ever since I first heard it at Spring Harvest. It encourages, comforts and inspires me all at the same time. It reminds me that when we face things that feel out of our depth or we don't understand; God is there. It also inspires me to want to go deeper in my experience of God and life and to step out even if it's scary, like Peter who stepped out of his boat to walk toward Jesus and had that amazing experience of both walking on water and then doubting and being saved by Jesus who was right there with him. I pray that I may have more of that boldness and willingness to step out like Peter did.

## Blessing

Friends,  
Jesus calls us to step out on to the water  
with him,  
to leave the safety of our boats,  
and to walk toward Him in faith,  
joining Him in the work He is already  
doing in our world.

And when the wind and waves get high and  
threaten to overwhelm us,  
we remember His words:  
*"Don't be afraid. Take courage. I am here."*

So let's go with faith,  
to follow where Jesus leads,  
confident that His love and presence go with  
us.