



Church Alive Worship for Sunday 9th August



Welcome to our Church Alive service. Whilst we are not all together in church, we are together in spirit. We have tried to adapt our normal service from screen to paper and have provided links to music

where possible if you would like to sing. *A big thank you to Debbie Thomson for recording the songs for us. These can be found on our YouTube channel with the links under the title – just hover and click on it*

In our reading today the disciples are out on the lake in a storm. The boat they are in is being tossed about by the waves. But Jesus comes to them, walking on the water, and he reassures them and tells them not to be afraid. Peter steps out of the boat to walk on the water to Jesus, but soon starts to panic and sinks but Jesus reaches out and saves him. This story encourages us to have faith during difficult times and promises us that when trials and tribulations come, even if our faith wavers, Jesus is with us and he will reach out and hold us safe.

Opening Song: Praise is Rising

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzH6jRfcay>

1. Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You
We turn to You
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You
We long for You

*'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence all our fears
Are washed away, washed away*

*Hosanna, Hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, Hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus*

2. Hear the sound of hearts returning to You
We turn to You
In Your kingdom broken lives are renewed
You make us new

*'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence all our fears
Are washed away, washed away*

*Hosanna, Hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, Hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus*

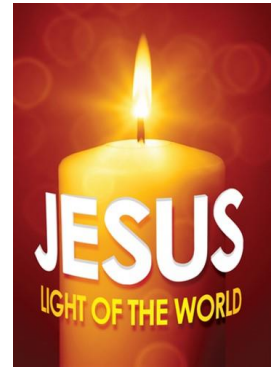


Thanksgiving

What would you like to say thank you to God for today and this week?
Take a moment to say thank you now.

Opening Prayer: *If you are able, and it is safe to do so, light a candle at this point*

Lord, we light this candle, to remind us that you are the light of the world. As we gather together in spirit, make our voices ready to sing your praise; our hearts open to receive your love and our minds alive to your Spirit. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



We seek God's healing and forgiveness

Lord God,
I'm sorry for the times I take my eyes off you,
and seek to do things in my own strength.
I'm sorry for the times I doubt that
you can keep me on the straight and narrow.
I'm sorry for the times I ask you for signs.
Lord, I pray that you will forgive
my doubts and hesitations,
show me your loving presence,
especially when I most need it,
and teach me to trust you at all times.
Amen.

We hear words assuring us of God's forgiveness

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Bible Reading – Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus walks on Water

²² Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people away. ²³ After sending the people away, he went up a hill by himself to pray. When evening came, Jesus was there alone; ²⁴ and by this time the boat was far out in the lake, tossed about by the waves, because the wind was blowing against it. ²⁵ Between three and six o'clock in the morning Jesus came to the disciples, walking on the water. ²⁶ When they saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said, and screamed with fear. ²⁷ Jesus spoke to them at once. "Courage!" he said. "It is I. Don't be afraid!" ²⁸ Then Peter spoke up. "Lord, if it is really you, order me to come out on the water to you." ²⁹ "Come!" answered Jesus. So Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he was afraid and started to sink down in the water. "Save me, Lord!" he cried. ³¹ At once Jesus reached out and grabbed hold of him and said, "What little faith you have! Why did you doubt?" ³² They both got into the boat, and the wind died down. ³³ Then the disciples in the boat worshiped Jesus. "Truly you are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.

Introducing the Theme & Learning Spaces *Not being able to break out into our learning spaces, here are a few thoughts about the theme for today. For young people you can use the Children's and Youth sheets that are being sent out separately.*

Picture Reflection – prepared by Brenda



Jesus said to Peter, 'Come'. Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus....then panic and doubt set in....

- Spend a few minutes with the image...
- Recall an occasion when you have taken a risk... what was the outcome? Do you have happy memories of that occasion or sad ones? Has that influenced your behaviour today?
- How would you respond if Jesus called you to 'Come'? Have you ever responded to a leap of faith?
- Does Peter's reaction and Jesus' rescue give you confidence to put your toe in the water?
- When it comes to the good news of the Gospel are we too risk-averse today?

Song: Will you come and follow me <https://youtu.be/LGuuoEyOymc>

1. Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
In you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see
If I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
And never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean
In you and you in me?

4. Will you love the you inside
If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
In you and you in me?

5. Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.
In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.

O Lord, Hear Our Prayers *Here are a few suggested topics for you to pray about. If you have specific prayers you would like included in future weeks then do send them to Linda and she will add them in*

We pray for...

Our world: For all those affected by the explosion in Beirut and for the people of Lebanon.
For all continuing to suffer through the effects of the Coronavirus; particularly those countries like India and Pakistan where the healthcare systems are under increasing strain...for leadership that expresses compassion and wisdom in their handling of the situation.
For an end to systemic racial injustice and a more just world to emerge where people have equal opportunities and treatment.

Our communities: For all those living in our parish. For our local businesses that are reopening, to be able to operate safely for both their staff and customers. For those who continue to be fearful of the effects of the relaxation of restrictions. For all who continue to support those who are isolated and alone in our community. For our local police and authorities who continue to operate on the frontline

Our church: For our Forest Church worship this weekend and our Diddi Disciples midweek service. For all of the members of our church family who have supported their friends and neighbour. For generous giving to enable our work to continue and flourish.

For the sick and the dying: for all who are unwell at this time, for those suffering from long-term illness and worried about their treatments, for all who are caring for family at home. For all those for whom this time is affecting their mental health.

For those who have died; may they rest in peace and rise in glory;
for the sadness of those who mourn and for those who are unable to attend funerals to say their farewells because of the restrictions in place. For all whose world has changed immeasurably following the death of a loved one.

Thanksgiving: For the gift of faith. For our family and friends and those who will be able to come together for the first time in months. For the beauty of creation that gives us joy and hope that God cares for us all.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

We say the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.

Song: I the Lord of Sea and Sky <https://youtu.be/4w7epemfSJc>

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my words to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will send the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

Sending Out Prayer

Lord, help us to hear your voice,
get out of our boats and follow you.
In the week ahead,
may the world and its problems decrease
as you increase in our lives.
Keep us focused on your way,
looking ahead and trusting you.
Amen.

The Peace

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen