

2026 08 09 WORSHIP AT HOME

Dear friends,

You will no doubt have noticed that I attribute copyright to the work I find – and that at the end of each offering I ensure that Roots is noted. I receive 4 Roots magazines each year – and have done so since 2002, so have now between 80 and 90 copies. Each week, I search out the relevant ones and try to source the best for that week. This does take time, of course, but I do try to make sure that you find each week's offering of value. I have found this set of magazines fascinating to look back through – and hope that they speak to you also. Margaret.

Call to worship:

Jesus said: 'Take courage, it is I. Don't be afraid.'

Our God is a powerful God who does things way beyond our understanding.

But we have no need to fear, for we know we are safe in God's presence.

Let us come to our God now – let us worship. Amen.

Lord, sometimes life following you can be difficult – we find so many dilemmas and struggle so much, wishing it could be easier.

We so want to trust you and see your plan for us so help us now to relax into your presence, to hear your word for us clearly and be prepared to act on it. In Jesus' name. Amen.

As we approach you now, Lord, we probably feel pretty much like Peter – full of bravado to begin with, but then not quite so certain of ourselves.

We come to you, Jesus, trusting that even if we feel ourselves beginning to sink under the pressure that we face, we know that you are still there holding us up.

Please reassure us that you won't let go, no matter how we feel.

Thank you, Lord. Amen.

The words to 'Lord of the boundless curves of space' by Albert Frederick Bayly [1901-1984] and Brian Wren [b. 1936]

Singing the Faith 111

1 Lord of the boundless curves of space
and time's deep mystery,
to your creative might we trace
all nature's energy.

2 Your mind conceived the galaxy,
each atom's secret planned,
and every age of history
your purpose, Lord, has spanned.

3 Your Spirit gave the living cell
its hidden, vital force:
the instincts which all life impel
derive from you, its source.

4 You gave a growing consciousness,
first sown when time began,
with all our longing to progress,
discover, shape and plan.

5 In Christ the living power of grace

to liberate and lead
lights up the future of our race
with mercy's crowning deed.

6 Lead us, whom love has made and sought,
to find, when planets fall,
that Omega of life and thought
where Christ is all in all.

Prayer

God of the earth and the waves, we praise you that you more than meet all our needs.
You call us out from our security to experience your adventures and blessings.
You don't want us to be like a becalmed ship or stuck in the harbour.
You want us out in deep water – and you will always be with us.
We praise and adore you, Lord. Amen.

Lord God, we are sorry for the times we take our eyes off you – when we seek to do things in our own strength.
We are sorry for the times when we doubt that you can keep us on the straight and narrow.
We are sorry for the times we ask you for signs.
Lord, we pray that you will forgive us our doubts and hesitations.
Show us your loving presence especially when we most need it – and teach us to trust you at all times.
Amen.

Jesus, you came in love, showering us with goodness despite our wrongdoing.
You shed your blood to atone for our sins and reconciled us to the Father.
Through your loving grace and mercy, you freely bless us with forgiveness. Amen

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come and 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.

Matthew 14: 22-33 taken from the Holy Bible – The Message [The Bible in Contemporary Language] Copyright 2002 by Eugene Peterson.

As soon as the meal was finished, Jesus insisted that the disciples get in the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he dismissed the people. With the crowd dispersed, he climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night.
Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came against them and they were battered by the waves. At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came towards them, walking on the water. They were scared out of their wits. 'A ghost!' they said, crying out in terror.
But Jesus was quick to comfort them. 'Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid.'
Peter, suddenly bold, said: 'Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water.'
He said: 'Come ahead.'
Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried: 'Master, save me!'

Jesus didn't hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand. Then he said: 'Faint-heart, what got into you?'

The two of them climbed into the boat, and the wind died down. The disciples in the boat, having watched the whole thing, worshipped Jesus, saying: 'This is it! You are God's Son for sure!'

Comment:

Jesus is still trying to escape the crowds and get some time alone following the murder of John the Baptist. He has shown compassion and fed the large crowd who followed him to his place of retreat – but he now dismisses them, and he also sends his disciples away, asking them to take the boat to the other side of the lake. While he is up on the mountainside, praying, the boat gets into trouble in the high winds, and the disciples are terrified. Jesus walks out across the water to reassure them. At first, the disciples think Jesus is an apparition, but then Peter has the boldness to test what he sees.

Initially, he steps out in faith – but as his courage fails, he begins to sink.

Jesus will not let him drown, though – he reaches out and holds on to Peter, taking him to safety.

[Just as Jesus will always reach out to us and hold us safe, even when our courage fails.]

Prayer

Lord God, we come before you to pray for all those people for whom taking risks is a way of life – and we ask that you reveal yourself to them and keep them safe.

We pray for our emergency services – paramedics, the police, the fire service, the RNLI and so many others. Indeed, we pray for all who daily face difficult situations as they seek to help protect us and make our world a safer and more peaceful place.

We pray for people who work in troubled areas – the armed forces in war zones, those who bring humanitarian aid into areas of natural disaster, and so many more.

We pray for all people who take risks in your name, Lord Jesus – those who take your word where it is most needed. And we pray for people who grapple with fear and doubt.

Lord, reveal yourself to all these people and keep them safe. Amen.

O Lord my God, you are worthy to be praised.

You are the Son of God who walks on water and who mesmerises huge crowds with powerful words – but you are also the Son of God who calms a frightened Peter.

You calm me and give me peace, and I thank you, Lord. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

Peter only knew life as a fisherman – but he got out of the boat and followed you, 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.

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