

Worship in Song

In the darkness there's a light

Countdown and Welcome

Introduction

Today's reading is about faith. Faith is trust. Abraham and Sarah trusted God when they were called to move to an unknown land, and also when God promised them a son, though they knew they were too old to have children. We are called to trust God as Abraham and Sarah did.

Opening Prayer

Lord, give to us a faith like the grain of mustard seed which had small beginnings but which yielded large results. Lord, give to us the faith to move the mountains of difficulty which come to us. Lord, give to us a faith like Abraham's, to move forward not knowing our destination but trusting in your guiding providence. **Amen.**

Worship in Song

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord;
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name.
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might.
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul the glories of his word.
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure,
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore.

Confession

We would like to keep our sins hidden and our failures a secret. But God would not have us

keep silent, but speak our confessions out loud, so we may be blessed with God's mercy and grace. So I invite you to pray with me:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The proof of God's amazing love is that while we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, our sins are forgiven and we can approach the throne of God in confidence. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Special Prayer for Today

Living God, give us faith to be sure of what we hope for, and to be certain of what we do not see; to believe that you are, and that you reward those who truly seek you: that may we please you and receive what you have promised; in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bible Reading

Hebrews 11:1-3 & 8-16 (*Church Bible page 1007*)

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon

Worship in Song

By faith, we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design;
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness,
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith, our fathers roamed the earth
With the power of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand
A place where peace and justice reign.

We will stand as children of the promise,
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith, the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and death,
And rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith, the church was called to go
In the power of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news,
In every corner of the earth.

By faith, this mountain shall be moved
And the power of the gospel shall prevail,
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of
our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins in accordance with the
Scriptures; he was buried; he was raised to life
on the third day in accordance with the
Scriptures; afterwards he appeared to his
followers, and to all the apostles: this we have
received, and this we believe. Amen.**

From 1 Corinthians 15.3-7

Prayers

At the end: Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to
him through faith, heirs of the promise of the
Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Offertory Prayer

Lord, it is by faith that you bless us and it is by faith
that we offer back to you a portion of what we

have, trusting that you will take these gifts and
use them in the work of your kingdom. This we
pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at
all times and in all places to give you thanks
and praise, holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God, through Jesus
Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word; through him you
have created all things from the beginning,
and formed us in your own image. Through
him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,
giving him to be born of a woman and to die
upon the cross; you raised him from the dead
and exalted him to your right hand on high.
Through him you have sent upon us your holy
and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people
for your own possession.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and
with all the company of heaven, we proclaim
your great and glorious name, for ever
praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and
might, heaven and earth are full of your
glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we
follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his
body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it
and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat;
this is my body which is given for you; do this
in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood

which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

We receive communion

Hymn during Communion

My faith looks up to thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour divine;
Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
Be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire.
As thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be.
A living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread.
Be thou my guide.
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Saviour, then in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul.

Hymn during Communion

With a prayer you fed the hungry
With a cry you stilled the storm
With a look you had compassion
On the desperate and forlorn
With a touch you healed the leper
With a shout you raised the dead
With a word expelled the demons
With a blessing broke the bread

Love incarnate love divine
Captivate this heart of mine
Till all I do speaks of you

As a sheep before the shearer
You were silent in your pain
You endured humiliation
At the hands of those you'd made
And as hell unleashed its fury
You were lifted on a tree
Crying Father God forgive them
Place their punishment on me

I will feed the poor and hungry
I will stand up for the truth
I will take my cross and follow
To the corners of the earth
And I ask that you so fill me
With your peace your power your breath
That I never love my life so much
To shrink from facing death

Hymn during Communion

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day
Christ on the road to Calvary
Tried by sinful men torn and beaten then
Nailed to a cross of wood

This the pow'r of the cross Christ became sin for us
Took the blame bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross

Oh to see the pain written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin
Ev'ry bitter thought ev'ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow

Now the daylight flees now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head
Curtain torn in two dead are raised to life
Finished the vict'ry cry

Oh to see my name written in the wounds
For through Your suff'ring I am free
Death is crushed to death life is mine to live
Won through Your selfless love

This the pow'r of the cross Son of God slain for us
What a love what a cost
We stand forgiven at the cross

Prayer after Communion

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Worship in Song

Now when peace like a river attendeth my soul
And when sorrows like sea billows roll
Then whatever my lot You have taught me to say
It is well it is well with my soul

It is well with my soul
When the storms of winter blow
And the cares of this world take their toll
In the heat of the day there is grace enough to say
It is well it is well with my soul

And when Satan should tempt me
And trials should come
Let this blessed assurance control
For He sees ev'ry weakness and knows ev'ry fear
And has shed His own blood for my soul

Blessing

By faith, let us go out as God's people. By faith, let us go to follow Jesus to serve with compassion and grace. By faith, let us go to join the Holy Spirit in welcoming all of God's children. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

Music as we leave

In the darkness there's a light