

# Traditional Home service

## Sunday 9th August Trinity 9

HYMN - 1 (*SEE PAGE 2*)

### OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection. In your mercy, forgive us.

**All Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing. In your mercy, forgive us.

**All Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven. In your mercy, forgive us.

**All Lord, hear us and help us.**

### PRAISE

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:

Let us sing to God with thankful hearts. Open our lips, Lord:  
**and we shall praise your name.**

HYMN 2 (*see page 2*)

READINGS - Romans 10:5-15  
Matthew 14:22-33

TALK (*see page 3*)

### CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Spend some time praying for our nation, our community and our families.*

### 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.

HYMN 3 (*see page 2*)

### CONCLUSION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

## HYMNS TO USE

466 Henry Francis Lyte.

### PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN;

To His feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who like thee His praise should sing?  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise Him for His grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise Him, still the same forever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like, He tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame He knows;  
In His hands He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Widely as His mercy flows.

Angels in the height, adore Him;  
Ye behold Him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,  
Dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise with us the God of grace!

771 Nathan Fellingham.  
Copyright © 1995 Kingsway's  
Thankyou Music.

### HOLY, HOLY,

Holy is the Lord God Almighty.  
(Repeat)  
Who was and is and is to come,  
Who was and is and is to come.

*Lift up His name with the sound of  
singing,  
Lift up His name in all the earth.  
Lift up your voice and give Him glory,  
For He is worthy to be praised.*

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord God  
Almighty  
(Repeat)

Who was and is and is to come,  
Who was and is and is to come.

147 Thomas O. Chisholm (1866–1960)  
William M. Runyan (1870–1957)  
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**GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**, O God  
my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions,  
they fail not;  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath  
provided,  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and  
harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses  
above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to  
guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for  
tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand  
beside!

Matthew 14:22-33

Getting through this season of uncertainty...

Revd Adrian Morton

When this pandemic gripped our nation.  
I remember having several feelings.

One of sadness when we learned that the  
away weekend couldn't happen.

One of apprehension when children couldn't  
go to school and we were contemplating  
home schooling!

But I have to say, in amongst it all I had in  
my mind that, 'well at least by September  
everything will be back to normal'.

We will just have to hold out until September!

Well the recent government announcements,  
and what we see in the news, is all pointing  
to it not being back to normal in September.

There's more talk about 2nd waves, further  
local lockdowns than normality.

And I have to say, over the last few weeks  
I've started to get discouraged by the  
increased uncertainty.

Oswald Chambers observed:

*"The nature of the spiritual life is that we are certain in our uncertainties, consequently we do not make our nests anywhere. Certainty is the mark of the common-sense life; gracious uncertainty is the mark of the spiritual life. To be certain of God means that we are uncertain in all our ways, and we do not know what a day will bring forth. This is generally said with a sigh of sadness; it should rather be an expression of breathless expectation."*

I really like that.  
To be honest I was starting to have more  
'sighs of sadness' than 'expressions of  
breathless expectation'!

But I want to live more with the latter.

How, in this season of so much uncertainty,  
can we, can I look forward with 'breathless  
expectation'?

You may not be wrestling with questions  
such as:

'What does it mean to be church at the  
moment?'  
'The Gospel hasn't changed so what does  
mission look like?'  
'Do I want to spend the rest of my life as a  
video editor?!"

But you may have uncertainties around your  
business or your employment.  
Around your finances.  
Maybe around family relationships.  
Or friendships...

So how can we navigate this season of  
uncertainty with a breathless expectation?

In this Gospel reading uncertainty was  
suddenly thrust upon Peter and the disciples.

Being in a boat was fine, they were used to  
that.  
Being in a boat, at night, not a problem...  
Being in a boat, at night, buffeted by the  
waves and wind... all part of being  
fishermen.

Having your master and teacher walk out to  
the boat on the water in the middle of the  
night...

Can I suggest that is where the uncertainty  
started!!!!

They would never have guessed that was  
about to happen.  
We could never have guessed at the turn of  
the year that a global pandemic was going to  
break out.

But can I suggest that Jesus walking out to  
this boat on the water was even more  
unlikely.

It would have caused an even deeper level  
of uncertainty in these disciples.

Who is this person?  
What have they really got themselves into?

Jesus recognises their terror, and says to  
them:

"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

There are at least two things we desperately need in the midst of uncertainty.

One is courage!

The ability to keep functioning even when you are frightened or unsettled.

The ability to try something new once you've recognised the old is either out of date or not working.

The other thing we need is to not allow fear to paralyse us.

Fear can be a very powerful emotion. And if we let it it has a real potential to debilitate or paralyse us.

In amongst this atmosphere where lack of courage and fear might have got a grip and overwhelmed the disciples Jesus simply says it is I.

As if that is enough.  
And of course it is.

Because if Jesus is in the situation He is sufficient to enable courage to grow and fears to subside.

I want to suggest that for Peter his dealing with uncertainty wasn't finished.

He gets out of the boat, starts to walk on the water.  
But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and started to sink.

I've heard people, almost criticise Peter, for not having enough faith.  
He walked on water for goodness sake!

The wind was still blowing.  
The waves would have been still buffeting the boat.

Even if he only managed a foot or two he gets my vote.  
Its a foot or two more than I've managed!

But of course uncertainty gripped him, he allowed fear to influence him and he started to sink.

As has been often said, when he took his eyes off Jesus, when he stopped focussing

on Jesus but looked instead at his circumstances... he started to sink.

If we are going to get through this season of uncertainty with 'breathless expectation' as opposed to sighs of sadness.

Then our attention, our focus needs to be on Jesus.

On the Lord of heaven and earth.

On the one through which all things are possible.

I don't know what that looks like for you, but for me, its primarily about worship.

And not just when I sing some songs, but when I use songs to truly start to focus on Him.

When I open my heart and engage my spirit with His Spirit.

It is then I start to feel more courageous.  
It is then I'm less likely to feel afraid about the future but more hopeful.

It is then I start to consider how to turn this season of uncertainty into a season of opportunity.

For me its primarily worship.

What does it for you?  
How do you focus on Him?

It may be time with His word, reminding yourself of His promises, of who He is  
It might be reciting the creed which we shall shortly do...  
it may be quiet contemplation,  
it may be engaging discussion with others...

Whatever it is, find time to focus on Him...

## CONCLUSION

When I was reading again this story of Jesus and Peter walking on the water.

Something struck me a fresh.

It was Peter's idea to get out of the boat.  
And it was a courageous idea at that!

It was Peter who said, "Lord, if its you, tell me to come to you on the water."

Jesus didn't suggest it, and expected Peter to be obedient.

Jesus just encouraged Peter to do what Peter was suggesting!

I just wonder in this season of uncertainty or is that opportunity.

Whether the Lord is waiting for some of us to step out and be courageous.

Maybe He's waiting for some of us to suggest something new.

Maybe He's waiting for some of us to suggest something unusual, something that we could never achieve in our own strength.

But with Him all things are possible, miraculous even.

And maybe the Lord will then say, great idea... come, lets see whether you have the faith for that...

Amen.