

worship notes



from the United Reformed Church

Sunday 9th August 2026
Proper 14 | Ordinary 19
The Revd Catherine McFie

Call to Worship

Come into a space where God is always present.
Come into a time when God is already here.
Come into a place where we can worship.
Come expecting God to speak.
Come hoping the Spirit will bring transformation.
Come excited to spend time with Jesus.
Come let us worship God, Creator, Son and Spirit!

Prayers of Approach and Confession

Lord God, we worship you because in power and majesty
you brought the universe into being.
We worship you because in love and mercy
you brought us the gift of new life.
We worship you because in all of life's changes, you are present.
When the world and its pressures would overwhelm us, you carry us through.
When we struggle to face difficulties with faith,
you do not reject us, but continue to hold out your hand to us.

Your love for us is beyond limit;
your care and concern, your compassion
reach out to us in our times of deepest need.

We come this day to worship you,
God, our creator, Jesus, our saviour, Holy Spirit, our inspirer.

Forgive us Lord,
for the times we have resisted change and limited your kingdom,
for the times we have tried to make Jesus more like us,
for the times when we have missed the chance
to share the gospel with others,
for the times when we have let the storms of life distract us,
for the times when we have doubted and not trusted your ways.

Silence

Merciful God, Jesus demonstrated that you don't leave us to sink in our weakness, our doubts or our sin.
His hands, outstretched on the Cross, tell us our sins are forgiven.
Help us to hear these words, and accept what is freely offered that we may be once again reconciled to you.
In Jesus name we pray Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, take a minute to still our hearts
In preparation to hearing your word read and proclaimed
May your Spirit silence our doubts and fears
So we can hear what you have to say.
Preparing for the week of service that lies ahead.
In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Readings

St Matthew 14:22 – 32 | 1 Kings 19:9 – 18

All Age Activity

- 1) Water Wings – they help keep people who can't swim afloat. Gives them a sense of security that when they are in the water they won't sink down to the bottom of the pool / sea. Jesus gives us the security of knowing no matter how hard life gets he is always with us
- 2) Distraction – when was a time that you were distracted and you missed something important or something unexpected happened? Peter got distracted from Jesus and began to sink and in life when we get distracted from following Jesus, and that can have unexpected consequences in our lives.
- 3) Trust – ask about a time when you have had to trust someone else or trust something else to keep you safe. Maybe the idea of being at the fun fare and how we have to trust that bars are locked in place to keep us in our seats. When we are disciples we trust Jesus, not so that no harm ever comes to us but that Jesus is always there with us.

Sermon Notes

St Matthew This is the passage I have used for the service and it is a passage full of possibilities. There are three places you can focus – on Jesus as I have done, on Peter. or on the other disciples in the boat. If you focus on Jesus, consider:

- Why did Jesus need to be on his own and role prayer had on this occasion?
- Why didn't he calm the storm first?

- Why didn't Jesus shout out his name as he approached the disciples?
- When Jesus asks Peter why he doubted – was he talking about his statement “Lord, if it is you....” or the fact that he sank in the water
- What do we learn about Jesus in this passage?

If you focus on Peter, consider:

- Why didn't Peter believe when the other disciples did?
- Why would Peter throw out such challenge words to Jesus?
- Wonder how it felt to actually walk on water, for although Peter eventually sank he did take some steps on the water.
- What does Peter's viewpoint have to teach us about being a disciple, if anything?

If you focus on the other disciples, consider:

- Why did they believe that who they saw was Jesus when Peter didn't?
- Wonder about what they thought of Peter's challenge and the fact that he got out of the boat.
- What made the disciples worship Jesus this time when he had already calmed the storm and feed the 5000 with five loaves and two fish?

1 Kings 19:9 – 18 This is a well-known story about Elijah and it is a story full of drama. If you want to focus on this reading, consider the following:

- Give some background as to why Elijah is in a cave, this can be done by a quick summary of the last couple of chapters or by extending the reading to start at verse 1.
- Elijah begins by having a bit of a rant at God, what is his main issue?
- Elijah is to listen for God – through the wind and fire and earthquake – how do we listen for God when there is so much noise around us?
- Elijah states that he alone is left but verse 18 suggests that he isn't alone – can you see any correlation between Elijah and the church today?
- Elijah is afraid and yet God still has work for him to do. Do you think the church is afraid and how does this impact on our effectiveness as disciples and how can we use our fear to make a difference?

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for those who find themselves tossed about by all that life throws at them, those who feel out of control and don't know which way to turn....

We pray for those who find themselves with an unexpected challenge, those who have much asked of them and feel overwhelmed....

We pray for those who find themselves overtaken by events, those who feel dejected and at a loss....

We pray for those who find themselves on the wrong side of popularity, those who feel they have more enemies than friends....

We pray for those who find themselves searching for what they do not know, those who feel that there must be more to life....

We pray for confused disciples and perplexed prophets, those who strive to be faithful and serve you, only to be surprised by grace....

Let us continue in prayer as we say together the words that Jesus taught us saying: Our Father...

Offertory

Let us offer up our money and talents for the work of God in this place

Generous God, You have given us a beautiful world in which to live;
through the storms and the sunshine, you are always with us.

As a sign of our love for you, we offer to you our money, time and talents,
that they may be used to build your kingdom in our communities.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Blessing

Send us out into the world:

knowing that you can calm the storms we face,
trusting that you reach out to help us up,
listening for your call to come.

As we go, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit
be with us today, tomorrow and forever. Amen.

Hymn Suggestions

	RS	CH4	StF	MP
Christ Is The World's Light	600		346	
Jesus calls us here to meet him		510	28	
Jesus call us o'er the tumult	355	509	250	359
Come Now Is The Time To Worship		196	24	1040
Praise and thanksgiving let everyone bring		170		
Praise, I will praise you, Lord / Je Louerai l'Éternel		175		
Make Me A Captive Lord	505	534		455
What Wondrous Love Is This		395		
My life flows on in endless song		565		1210
Eternal Father Strong To Save	58	260	517	122
Do not be afraid	591	191		115
At The Name Of Jesus	261	458	317	41
All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name		457	342	13
Jesus is Lord! Creation's Voice Proclaims it.	268		353	376
O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing	285	352	364	496

RS – Rejoice & Sing | CH4 – Church Hymnary 4 | StF – Singing the Faith | MP – Mission Praise