

Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



Sunday 9th August **Welcome to this Family Service** **Led by John Wheatley**

Welcome & Notices

Opening Prayer

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.

Help us this morning to relax into your presence, to clearly hear your word and be prepared to act on it.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Songs This week curated and sung by Lindsey, with many thanks to her and David for providing the recordings.

“The Way” (New Horizon)

Through every battle

Through every heartbreak

Through every circumstance

I believe that You are my fortress

You are my portion

You are my hiding place

I believe You are

The way the truth, the life
and I believe You are
the way, the truth, the life
and I believe

Through every blessing
Through every promise
Through every breath I take
I believe that You are provider
You are protector
You are the one I love
I believe You are

The way the truth, the life
I believe You are the way, the truth, the life
I believe You are

It's a new horizon and I'm set on You
And you meet me here today
With mercies that are new
All my fears and doubts
They can all come too
Because they can't stay long when I'm here with You

It's a new horizon and I'm set on You
And you meet me here today
With mercies that are new
All my fears and doubts
They can all come too
Because they can't stay long when I believe you are

The way, the truth, the life
I believe You are
The way, the truth, the life
I believe You are

It's a new horizon and I'm set on You
And you meet me here today
With mercies that are new
All my fears and doubts
They can all come too
Because they can't stay long when

I believe You are
The way, the truth, the life
I believe You are the way, the truth, the life
I believe You are

Songwriters: Pat Barrett / Ben Smith / Daniel Bashta
Performed by Lindsey and David Mackie

“Great are You Lord”

You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore
Every heart that is broken
Great are You, Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

(repeat from top)

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

All the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing
Great are You, Lord
(x3)

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only
(x2)

Great are you Lord
(x3)

Source: [LyricFind](#)

Songwriters: David Leonard / Jason Ingram / Leslie Jordan

Great Are You Lord Lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC

Performed by Lindsey Mackie

Summary of the law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: the first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandments greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Confession

After a period of reflection

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.

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever.

Amen.

Reading Matthew 14.22-33 ... read to us by Judy Giles

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land,^[a] for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

²⁸ Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' ²⁹ He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind,^[b] he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

Sermon. Nigel is opening God's Word for us today

Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.
**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

cf Ephesians 3

Song "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper rev'rence, praise.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,

And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small Voice of calm.

In simple trust like theirs who heard
Beside the Syrian sea
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow Thee.

Hymnary.org (http://www.hymnary.org/text/dear_lord_and_father_of_mankind)

Written by John G Whittier

Performed by Lindsey Mackie

Intercessions ... prepared and read to us by Deb Whittaker

Response For in you O Lord ~ **do we put our trust**

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.

The Collect

Gracious Father, revive your Church in our day and make her holy, strong, and faithful,
for your glory's sake. In Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen

Song "King of Kings"

In the darkness, we were waiting
Without hope, without light
'Til from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes

To fulfill the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

*Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross

For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

Praise the Father, praise the Son...

And the morning that You rose
All of Heaven held its breath
'Til that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death

And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

And the church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel, shall not faint

By His blood and in His name
In His freedom I am free
For the blood of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me, ohh

Praise the Father, praise the Son...

Praise forever to the King of Kings

Performed by Lindsey Mackie

Songwriters: Jason Ingram / Brooke Ligertwood / Scott Ligertwood

King of Kings lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, Capitol Christian Music Group

Final 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..

Thank you for joining us today.

Note

To contact the church please email office@stokepogeschurch.org or phone 01753 642331. Please do not come to the office in person; we are all working remotely.

Going Deeper

Bible Notes

In this story, something is revealed about Jesus' identity. 'It is I' are the same words (in Greek) that God uses to describe himself in the Old Testament. Matthew is hinting that something about Jesus' identity is beyond human. At the end of this passage, the disciples declare that Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus seems to set up this scene to test the disciples' faith. And there's something encouraging in this: if the disciples had doubts, it suggests that we're allowed to as well. And they are all changed as Jesus meets them in their doubt, fear and discomfort. Peter, by getting out of the boat, shows that he is willing to leave behind his old life and its safety, to follow Jesus. However, he still and always seems to find faith a struggle. Both Elijah – in the Book of 1 Kings – and Peter struggle to maintain their faith in God despite having seen God perform amazing deeds in front of their eyes. All three passages challenge us to consider whether we find it easy to hear what God says – and believe in it. The challenge for us is to take that risk of faith, and 'step out of the boat'.

Questions for reflection



- Does this image speak more of faith or doubt?
- What step/leap of faith have you taken recently?
- Are we too risk-averse in living the Gospel?

Live your faith

Encourage everyone to take a risk this week (NB within current social distancing guidelines). For example, they might say 'Hello' to someone they 'know' but have never spoken to; or make an apology that is overdue

A personal prayer

O Lord my God, you are worthy to be praised.
You are the Son of God who walks on water,
who mesmerises huge crowds with powerful words,
but who also calms a frightened Peter
– and you calm me and give me peace.
Thank you, Lord.
Amen.

Name

Matthew 14.22-33

Peter, the disciple, learns what it means to trust Jesus when he steps out of his boat and walks towards him on the water.



Family time

Talk What kinds of situations can you think of where we have to be brave and 'step out' in faith?

Do As a family, all think of situations where you need to trust God more. Write them on sticky notes and put them somewhere that you will see and be reminded to pray through the week.

Pray Lord, please help us to be brave like Peter. We all have times when we need to be brave and trust in you. Teach us to rely on you, and to know you are always there, strengthening us. Amen.

Activity time



Draw Peter being pulled up out of the water by Jesus after he started to sink.



Cross out the letters v, x, y and z to reveal a hidden message.

vPxeytvezr vsxtieypysz
zoyutv xozf ythvez
zbyvoxayty
twozwzaryvdxs
yjxezysxuvsyz

ROOTS children's sheet

9-15 August 2020



Write a letter from Peter to his mother explaining what happened on that day and how it made him feel.

Dear mum...

