

## God's faithfulness

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."

Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare  
and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his feathers,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. *Psalm 91: 1-4*

Faithful one, so unchanging; Ageless one, You're my rock of peace  
Lord of all I depend on You, I call out to You, again and again,  
I call out to You, again and again.

You are my rock in times of trouble, You lift me up when I fall down  
All through the storm, Your love is the anchor,  
My hope is in You alone.

*(Brian Doerksen)*



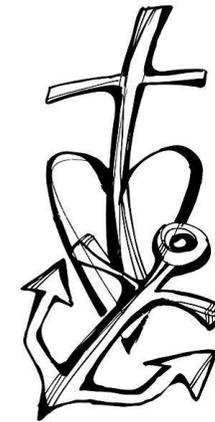
God our Father, by whose mercy the world turns safely into darkness  
and returns again to light: we place in your hands our unfinished  
tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes,  
knowing that only what you bless will prosper.

To your love and protection we commit each other and all those we  
love, knowing that you alone are our sure defender,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen *(Church of South India)*

## Readings, Songs and Prayers for Worship at Home

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,  
that we may obtain mercy and find grace  
to help in time of need.

*Hebrews 4: 16*



This booklet contains 14 daily readings for us to use at home whilst we are unable to meet. Each has a different theme.

These are, in no particular order:

Love

God's Presence

Exile

Fear and Anxiety    Light    Darkness    Protection

Prayer and Care    Peace    Security

Hope

God's Faithfulness

Salvation

Strength

Choose whatever theme suits you for that day; they are offered to you with love, to help us worship whilst we are apart, and to bring God's light and life into the strange circumstances we are living through.

You can print off the pages and make them into a booklet, or use them on any device.

## Love

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. *1 John 4: 7-9*



Let there be love shared among us,  
Let there be love in our eyes;  
May now Your love sweep this nation,  
Cause us, O Lord, to arise.  
Give us a fresh understanding  
Of brotherly love that is real;  
Let there be love shared among us,  
Let there be love.

*(Dave Bilbrough)*

Circle us, Lord.

Circle our family and friends with the love of the gospel. Keep them in peace and security. Guard those of our loved ones who are vulnerable; strengthen those who are struggling; encourage those who are despondent. May the deep peace of the Prince of Peace keep them all.

Circle them, Lord; Keep love within; keep danger out.

*(Rt Revd John Pritchard)*

## God's presence

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. *John 1: 14*

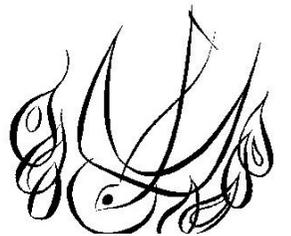
You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. *Psalm 16: 11*

“My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” *Exodus 33: 14*

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here,  
Come bow before Him now, with reverence and fear.

In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground,  
Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

*(David J Evans)*



May the grace of God uphold you,  
the peace of God surround you,  
the love of God flow from you  
and the strength of God protect and bring you safely through this day.  
Amen.

*(John Birch)*

## Exile

How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land?  
If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill.  
May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth  
if I do not remember you,  
if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy. *Psalm 137: 4-6*

I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength. *Philippians 4: 11-13*



How long before You drench the barren land?  
How long before we see Your righteous hand?  
How long before Your name is lifted high?  
How long before the weeping turns to songs of joy?

*(Stuart Townend)*

O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you,  
diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you,  
eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you,  
and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit  
of Jesus Christ our Lord. *(St. Benedict)*

## Fear and Anxiety

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. *Philippians 4: 6*

“The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?”  
*Psalm 27: 1*

You are my anchor, my light and my salvation.

You are my refuge, my heart will not fear.

Though my foes surround me on every hand,

They will stumble and fall while in grace I stand.

In my day of trouble, you hide me and set me above

To sing this song of love:

One thing I will ask of You, this will I pray:

To dwell in Your house, O Lord, every day;

To gaze upon Your lovely face, and rest in the Father’s embrace.

*(Stuart Townend)*



Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

## Protection

I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord watches over you— the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. *Psalm 121*



Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

*(St. Patrick’s Breastplate)*

May the Father’s hand keep you from stumbling, the footprints of Jesus give you confidence to follow, and the fire of the Spirit keep you warm and safe in your walk with God this day.

*(John Birch)*

## Prayer and Care

So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword. *Exodus 17: 10-13*

Brother, sister, let me serve you; let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.  
We are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

*(Richard A M Gillard)*



We are not people of fear: we are people of courage.  
We are not people who protect our own safety:  
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.  
We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity.  
We are your people God, giving and loving,  
wherever we are, whatever it costs  
For as long as it takes, wherever you call us.

*(Barbara Glasson)*

## Peace

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” *John 14: 27*

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” *John 16: 33*

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. *Colossians 3: 15*



Here is grace, here is peace  
Christ is with us, He is with us  
Know His grace, find His peace  
Feast on Jesus here.

*(Graham Kendrick)*

“May the LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.”

*(Benediction from Numbers 6: 24-26)*

## Security

**“Yet if you devote your heart to him and stretch out your hands to him, if you put away the sin that is in your hand and allow no evil to dwell in your tent, then, free of fault, you will lift up your face; you will stand firm and without fear. You will surely forget your trouble, recalling it only as waters gone by. Life will be brighter than noonday, and darkness will become like morning. You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety.**

***Job 11: 13-18***

**God holds the key of all unknown, and I am glad;  
If other hands should hold the key, Or if He trusted it to me,  
I might be sad, I might be sad.**

**The very dimness of my sight makes me secure;  
For, groping in my misty way, I feel His hand; I hear Him say,  
“My help is sure, My help is sure.”**

***(Joseph Parker)***



**O God, who is in the midst of us and does not forsake us, who has loved us from the beginning and will love us to the end, we give thanks; we offer prayer, O God, in the certain knowledge that you will be our refuge in the time of trouble.**

***(Philip Newell, altered)***

## Hope

**Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?  
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour  
and my God. *Psalm 42: 11***

**Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. *Romans 5: 1-5***



**Jesus, hope of the nations  
Jesus, comfort for all who mourn  
You are the source of Heaven's hope on earth ...  
You are the hope living in us  
You are the rock in whom we trust  
You are the light shining for all the world to see ...**

***(Brian Doerksen)***

**Jesus, risen in the garden, bring us to the awesome beauty of your risen presence, that we may be an Easter people of unshakeable hope. Lord, hear us; graciously hear us. *(Rt Revd John Pritchard)***

## Salvation

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things;  
his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.  
The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his  
righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

*Psalm 98 1-3*



Salvation belongs to our God, Who sits on the throne  
And unto the Lamb, Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks,  
Honour and power and strength,  
Be to our God for ever and ever ... Amen

*(Crystal Lewis)*

Circle us, Lord  
Circle us with the light of your presence, bright within this dark word  
Enable us to be overcomers of fear and temptation  
Enable us to be victors over sin and despair  
Enable us to become that which you would desire  
Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation  
Circle us with the light of your presence.  
Circle us, Lord.

*(Rt Revd John Pritchard, altered)*

## Strength

Do you not know? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He will not grow tired or weary,  
and his understanding no one can fathom.  
He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.  
Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;  
but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint. *Isaiah 40: 28-31*

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord  
Our God, You reign forever  
Our hope, our Strong Deliverer  
*(Chris Tomlin)*



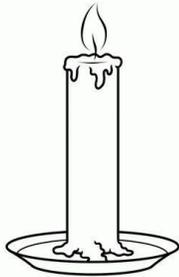
O God, the protector of all who trust in you,  
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:  
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;  
that with you as our ruler and guide,  
we may so pass through things temporal  
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *(Common Worship)*

## Light

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. *Psalm 119: 105*

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." *John 8: 12*

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. *John 1: 5*



Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness  
Open my eyes, Let me see  
Beauty that made this heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You  
Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me.

*(Tim Hughes)*

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill,  
afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light;  
through him who suffered alone on the cross,  
but reigns with you in glory: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Darkness

Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn,

if I settle on the far side of the sea,

even there your hand will guide me,

your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me

and the light become night around me,"

even the darkness will not be dark to you;

the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

*Psalm 139: 7-12*

There is a hope that lifts my weary head,

A consolation strong against despair,

That when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit,

I find the Saviour there!

Through present sufferings, future's fear,

He whispers 'courage' in my ear.

For I am safe in everlasting arms, And they will lead me home.

*(Stuart Townend)*



Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray;

and in your mercy, defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;  
for the love of your only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen