



‘Worship at home’ Sunday August 10th 2025

We come to worship God
who is always faithful.



Opening

Faith is being sure of what we hope for
and certain of what we do not see.

We praise God for things seen:

For sun and stars, for mountains and rivers,
for rainbows and flowers.

We praise God for things hoped for:

For dreams of love and life, for our future,
whatever it may hold.

We praise God for that of which we are certain:

For family, for friends, for the gift of faith.

We give God thanks and praise. Amen

What does the term ‘faith’ mean for you?

**How has your understanding of faith
changed over the years?**

The story is told of a person looking at a high wire strung across a great canyon. A tightrope walker turned to an observer and said, “Do you think I can walk across the canyon on that wire?” “Sure,” the observer replied. “That’s belief,” the tightrope walker said. “If you have faith, climb on my back.”



faith: confidence or trust in a person or thing;
belief that is not based on proof

www.dictionary.com

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see. It was by their faith that people of ancient times won God's approval. It is by faith that we understand that the universe was created by God's word, so that what can be seen was made out of what cannot be seen. It was faith that made Abraham obey when God called him to go out to a country which God had promised to give him. He left his own country without knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as a foreigner in the country that God had promised him. He lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who received the same promise from God. For Abraham was waiting for the city which God has designed and built, the city with permanent foundations. It was faith that made Abraham able to become a father, even though he was too old and Sarah herself could not have

children. He trusted God to keep his promise. Though Abraham was practically dead, from this one man came as many descendants as there are stars in the sky, as many as the numberless grains of sand on the seashore. It was in faith that all these persons died. They did not receive the things God had promised, but from a long way off they saw them and welcomed them and admitted openly that they were foreigners and refugees on earth. Those who say such things make it clear that they are looking for a country of their own. They did not keep thinking about the country they had left; if they had, they would have had the chance to return. Instead, it was a better country they longed for, the heavenly country. And so God is not ashamed for them to call him their God, because he has prepared a city for them.

Good News Bible

One night a house caught fire and a young boy was forced to flee to the roof. The father stood on the ground below with outstretched arms, calling to his son, "Jump! I'll catch you." He knew the boy had to jump to save his life. All the boy could see, however, was flame, smoke, and blackness. As can be



imagined, he was afraid to leave the roof. His father kept yelling: "Jump! I will catch you." The boy protested, "Daddy, I can't see you." But the father replied, "I can see you, and that's all that matters."

This whole chapter of Hebrews is an essay on faith, running through a list of actions and attributes of great people from the past who showed faith in times of uncertainty. Rather than a theoretical definition of faith, we are reminded of the experience of real people in real relationship with God who has been faithful all through the ages. We too are encouraged then to stand firm in the midst of difficulties and challenges, knowing that God is with us.

If I have a headache, I might take the paracetamol out of the medicine cabinet. The instructions tell me that it is for the "effective temporary relief of pain." I am sure that is right. I believe that paracetamol is useful against pain, and that it will relieve my headache, if I take it. However, if I put the packet back in the cabinet, without taking any, my headache won't go away: I need to actually do something about it. I believe in that medicine, I know it to be true, but if I don't act on my beliefs, it doesn't change anything.

Faith is more than just intellectual assent to a set of beliefs. We can believe in God, the Bible, or a religious doctrine, but if we don't act on it, it doesn't change anything. Perhaps we could say that belief is what we claim to accept as true in our heads, but faith is more about a trusting relationship with God which then changes us, changes our attitudes, changes what we do and how we live. Perhaps faith could be also understood as a verb, as well as a noun. Faith is not just what we believe, but how we act.



Where might God be calling you to step out in faith?

Prayer

O holy One, we thank you that we stand in a long line of believers who have been faithful through the ages. You have been leading your people through trial and difficulty and have always set before them hope for today and hope for a better tomorrow. We pray that you would bless us in our time as we seek to be as faithful as our forebears. May we too know the faith which is filled with hope in things not seen.



Give to us faith...

- like the grain of mustard seed which had small beginnings but which yielded large results
- to move the mountains of difficulty which come to each of us
- that sees a distant goal and is willing to work to achieve it
- which has a vision of a new world where peace and love characterize the transactions of people and of nations and where war is no more
- such as Abraham's to move forward not knowing our destination but trusting in your guiding providence
- which is able to endure those moments of personal disquiet and to trust that you are with us
- which sees the welfare of humankind as our business because it is the focus of your enduring love for your people

God, give us faith to walk with you through the ebb and flow and the victories and the defeats of life. Amen

~ adapted from Richard Einerson

http://www.richardeinerson.com/einerson_004.htm

Closing

God calls us to the edges
and sends us into the unknown.

All we need for the journey will be provided.

Faith takes the little that we have

and with each act of love and justice

we will see it is enough.

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