



'Worship at home'

October 5th 2025



We come to worship God, in faith,
knowing we live in God's love and grace,
and are empowered by God's Spirit in all we do.

Opening

Come before the God of steadfast love.

Come, knowing you are called in grace.

Come with testimony and with song.

Come, knowing you are called to hope.

Come to worship God with joy.

Come, knowing you are called by love.

Come to celebrate the gift of faith.

Come, in faith. Amen!

So often we think that more is better...20% more in the packet; buy two, get one free; upsize that meal, with extra fries. But this is not always so: too much salt makes the soup inedible; too much sugar in a cup of tea is undrinkable; a larger car is just harder to park!

NOW FAITH IS
CONFIDENCE IN
WHAT WE HOPE FOR
AND ASSURANCE
ABOUT WHAT WE DO
NOT SEE.

HEBREWS 11:1

*If only we had more faith!
If we had more faith,
might we pray more effectively?
If we had more faith,
could we trust God more fully?
If we had more faith,
would we live more faithfully?*

Jesus's disciples were facing challenging times, and they asked to increase their faith.

**What might it mean
for you to have
"more" faith?**

**How might that help in
your challenging times?**

Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you. “Suppose one of you has a servant ploughing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’?

Won’t he rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’ ”

New International Version

“Increase our faith!” we might say when we are awaiting uncertain test results, facing a difficult exam, struggling to make ends meet, or wrestling with how to forgive someone who has hurt us. We want Jesus to say, “yes, of course: take 2 cups more of prayer, 3 pinches of good worship songs, add a splash of silence and fold together with some Scripture readings ... and you’ll be right!”



Even the simplest things done in faith can have a huge impact.

Instead, Jesus responds by telling us that faith as big as a mustard seed is all we need. Just like a tiny mustard seed can have a great impact on the world around it, so a small amount of faith is enough for

God to work in our lives in a powerful way. We don’t need any more faith than we already have, rather, we need to be able to trust in the power of the faith we already have. When we live as we are called to, we have faith in God who restores, equips and empowers us to be who we are, just as we are. All we are asked to do is trust, and to “do our duty” as we are called, and God will do abundant work within and through us.

We might look at other Christians and compare our faith with theirs. Surely Mother Theresa or Desmond Tutu must have had “more” faith than we do, to do the amazing things they did. However, faith is not quantifiable, and we cannot measure faith on a scale of 1 to 10. We are not called to have the faith of another: we are called to use the faith we have, just as we are, ordinary, fallen, fragile, and inadequate as that might seem. We have all the faith we need, and all the gifts we need, equipped by the Holy Spirit, to live the life we are called to live.

In this life
we cannot
always do
great things.
But we can do
small things
with great love.

~ Mother Theresa

Prayer

For the gift of faith

which sees beyond the present moment
and looks to an eternity,
we thank you.

For the gift of faith

small as a mustard seed,
which has power within its simplicity,
we thank you.

For the gift of faith

bestowed on those who would simply come,
hearts open in humility,
we thank you.

Amen

~ John Birch <http://www.faithandworship.com/>

A mustard seed is tiny, but when planted and nurtured it grows and flourishes into a large bush.

How has your faith grown and flourished over the years?

Who has been influential in your growing in faith?



What opportunities do you have to help transform another's small and fragile seed of faith into a mature and deeply grounded disciple?

Prayer

Loving and gracious God, we come to you just as we are: uncertain, fearful, fragile, tearful, joyful, exultant, arrogant, proud... we are who we are. But we are who we are in you, and in you, we are enough.

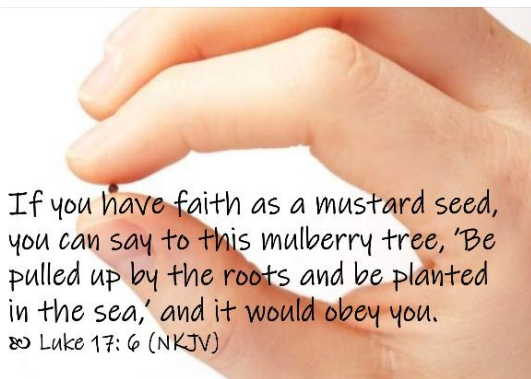


You have given us this gift of faith, which, small as it may be, is enough. Help us to claim the certainty we have in you, that we may trust you. Help us to live as you call us to live, so that the little we seem to do is multiplied in your love and grace, and has an impact.

We give thanks for those who have shaped our faith, who have taught, encouraged, challenged us and helped us grow. We give

thanks for the prayers which have supported us throughout our lives. We ask that we might in turn live faithfully: teaching, encouraging, challenging and helping others grow, that their faith might flourish.

We pray in Christ, Amen



If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

☞ Luke 17: 6 (NKJV)

Closing

from 2 Timothy 1:13

Hold firmly to the true words that you have been taught, as the example for you to follow, and remain in the faith and love that are yours in union with Christ Jesus.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, who lives in us, keep the good things that have been entrusted to you.

Go in peace, and in love.

Amen