

A song to sing or to read: We Will Love

Refrain We will walk with you at the edges
We will die with you at the crossroads
We will live in your dangerous places
We will love
We will risk with you taking chances
We will stand with you facing evil
We will live in your dangerous places
We will love

Come Lord Jesus Christ hear our prayer
Come now living friend please draw near
Alone we feel unsure and so afraid
Calling us to live by Your grace
Calling us to leave all that's safe
Our lives we choose to lose so you may save **Refrain**

Stepping out we call on your name
Knowing you have healed all our shame
Our God, your precious love has made us whole
Gifting us with power to set free
Holy Spirit use even me
Renew all that I am so I may see **Refrain**

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Church in a Bag
Sunday 9 August
Dubbo Uniting Church



A Gathering

We are excited to hear all you have to say, Lord God
for your words bring peace and wellbeing
to those who stick with you
in these uncertain times.

Faithfulness will sprout and
reach the sky
integrity will beam down on
the earth
for all who are looking.

We will meet you on the road
to welcome you among us.

Amen



Preparation

Let us come to open our ears, eyes and our hearts
in worshipping God who keeps his promises.
We who trust in God in these unprecedented times
feel the sunshine of a God who cares for us all.
As we sit and participate from different places
may we praise God for his abundant love.

Amen

A Closing Thought

We are not walking on a lake like Peter, but on another sea.
This world is our sea. Trials are our waves, temptations our storms.
Don't be afraid. Step out boldly.
When the gale blows, the waves rise, and you fear you will be lost
cry out "Lord I am sinking", and he who bid you walk will not let you
perish.

With thanks to Kylie Field for preparing today's reflection



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Reading: Matthew 14:22-33 – Jesus walks on water

Reflection

Instead of looking at Peter's failures, let us look somewhere else. At Jesus. Let's look at how for a moment in time Peter took his eyes off Jesus and Jesus was there for him, reaching out his hand and catching him.

Not so many years ago my boys were swimming in a pool with siblings and friends. None of my children can swim (and it is not from a lack of trying) but they can keep themselves safe in the pool. One was fine in the shallow end and the older children were swimming at the deeper end. This child decided to follow. The child was resourceful in using the edge of the pool but when he got super close to the big kids, he lost his grip. On his way down to the bottom, one of the big kids felt the child touch his leg and saw him sinking. I am sure that child's heart was beating a hundred miles an hour in terrifying fear. The big kids reached out their arms and the child grabbed on. The relief that child must have felt, and I felt too, was overwhelming.

I believe that is possibly how Peter felt. This is when he thought he did not need to be told to keep his eyes on Jesus anymore. Yes, it was a heartbeat and not a drum beat in the story. Yes, Peter **should have kept his eyes on Jesus....and so should we**. When we don't, we falter, fail and get side-tracked. Jesus is there to grab us, catch us, to support us and set us straight, ready to give it another go.

Peter rushing to join Jesus in the midst of the waves reminds us to think about how big the 'waves' are. These are the worries, concerns and anxieties we all carry. Somewhere in the middle we can simply reach out and grab each other.

Finally, Jesus is not simply our guide or life coach, he is our saviour; the one who does for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

Jesus wants more than just to command our attention; he wants to save our lives. Jesus has promised to do just that.



A Prayer

God of Jesus and my God
some folks reckon that all things are possible
if we only want them enough.

I don't believe that.

But I do believe in your love and that all things are possible
if they fit in with what you know is really good for us.

Help me to want the things you want
and to be brave enough to go for them
with the help of Jesus

Amen