

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;	Great is thy faithfulness
Ageless one,	O God, my Father
You're my rock of peace.	There is no shadow
Lord of all I depend on You,	of turning with thee
I call out to You, OR	Thou changest not
again and again,	Thy compassions they fail not
I call out to You,	As Thou hast been
again and again,(X2)	Thou forever will be.
You are my rock in times of trouble,	<i>Great is thy faithfulness (x2)</i>
You lift me up when I fall down	<i>Morning by morning</i>
All through the storm,	<i>New mercies I see</i>
Your love is the anchor,	<i>All I have needed thy hand has provided</i>
My hope is in You alone.	<i>Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!</i>

(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, Hymns 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



Love

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.

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.

Love divine, all loves excelling
Joy of heaven, to earth come down
Fix in us thy humble dwelling
OR All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion
Pure unbounded love thou art
Visit us with thy salvation
Enter every trembling heart.

(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

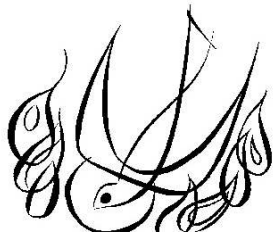
The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. *John 1: 14*

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)

OR Lord Jesus Christ
You have come to us
Born as one of us
Mary's Son
Led out to die on Calvary
Risen from death to set us free
living Lord Jesus, help us see
You are Lord.

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

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I one was lost but now am found
Was blind but now I see.

“Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.



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.

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*



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 (x2)

"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."

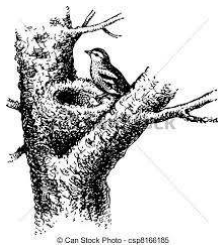
(Benediction from Numbers 6: 24-26)

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*

O God our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home.

O God our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come
be thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home.



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. *Psalms 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)

OR

Lord of all hopefulness
Lord of all joy
Whose trust, ever child-like
No cares could destroy
Be there at our waking
And give us we pray
Your bliss in our hearts Lord
at the break of the day.

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 marvellous 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, OR
Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks,
Honour and power and strength,
Be to our God for ever and ever
... Amen *(Crystal Lewis)*

Nearer my God to thee
Nearer to thee
E'en though it be a cross
That raiseth thee.
Still all my song would be
Nearer my God to thee
Nearer to thee.

Circle us, Lord
Circle us with the light of your presence, bright within this dark world
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 (x2)
Our God, You reign forever
Our hope, our Strong Deliverer
(Chris Tomlin)

OR God is our strength and refuge
Our present help in trouble
And therefore we will not fear
Though the earth should change
Though mountains shake and tremble
Though swirling floods are raging
God the Lord of hosts is with us
evermore. *(Dambuster tune)*



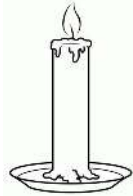
O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide,
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *(Common Worship)*

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, OR
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)

Lead kindly light
Amidst th'enclircling gloom
Lead Thou me on!
The night is dark
And I am far from home
Lead Thou me on!
Keep Thou my feet
I do not ask to see
The distant scene
One step enough for me

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*

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest
drought and storm.
What heights of love,
what depths of peace
When fears are stilled,
when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

There in the ground his body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave he rose again
And as he stands in victory
Sins curse has lost its grip on me
For I am his and he is mine
Bought with the precious blood
of Christ.

(2 verses of In Christ alone by 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.