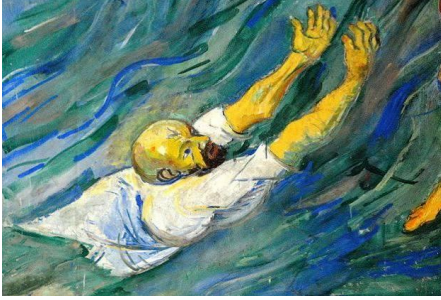




St Edmund's Church Taverham
and St Peter's Church Ringland
9th August 2026

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live

A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where prophets speak and words are strong and true
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew
Here the cross shall stand as witness and a symbol of God's grace
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat
A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet
Here the love of God, through Jesus is revealed in time and space
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach and live the Word they've known
Here the outcast and the stranger, bear the image of God's face
Let us bring an end to fear and danger

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter
(Paul Tate / Marty Haugen)

Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 105:1-4,7)

Give thanks to the Lord;
call on His name;
make His deeds known to all the people!

**For He is the Lord, our God,
faithful to a thousand generations!**

Sing His praises;
tell of His wonderful works,
and glory in His holy name!
Let those who seek the Lord rejoice!

**For He is the Lord, our God,
faithful to a thousand generations!**

Search for God, and for His strength.

Never stop looking for Him.

**For He is the Lord, our God,
faithful to a thousand generations!**

(Based on Psalm 105)

Father God I wonder how I managed to exist

Without the knowledge of Your parenthood

And Your loving care

But now I am Your child, I am adopted in Your family

And I can never be alone

'Cause Father God You're there beside me

I will sing Your praises

I will sing Your praises

I will sing Your praises forevermore

And now I know your love for me is greater than the widest sea

A greater love can never be and I am not alone

You love us all so equally

You're faithful for eternity

And I will never be afraid

'Cause Father God You're here beside me

(Ian Smale and Nick Moore)

A reading from the gospel according to Matthew beginning at chapter 14 verse 22

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!'

Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want

He makes me lie in pastures green
He leads me by the still, still waters
His goodness restores my soul
And I will trust in You alone
And I will trust in You alone
For Your endless mercy follows me
Your goodness will lead me home

He guides my ways in righteousness
And He anoints my head with oil
And my cup, it overflows with joy
I feast on His pure delights

And though I walk the darkest path
I will not fear the evil one
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know
(Stuart Townend)

Reflection

Years later the curious would ask,
"That night on the lake, really and truly,
did Jesus actually walk on water?"

And one of the disciples might reply,
"Yes. But the curious thing
that nobody ever mentions is that
every day of his life, wherever he went
his feet were always wet."

Another disciple says, "No, that's just a story.
But another time he did."

Or, "I don't recall. All I remember
is how afraid I was to see this apparition,
how relieved to see it was him,
and how afraid when he looked at me
as if I could do the same."

One says, "Not at first. That was just
a metaphor. But as the story spread
so many went there looking for him
that he walked out there often to meet them."

And one: "Oh, yes, it was very real, more so
than you think. The story has him floating
like a cloud. Actually, the waves were pretty choppy.
It was hard. He fell a couple of times."

One time a disciple simply replied,
"He is still there, every night."

Another says, "Honestly, I don't remember that morning,
but all the mornings since then."

Another: "My heart is a deep and unpredictable lake.
And he always walks toward me, never away."

But usually they just look at you and say,
"Why are you asking me?
You must go and see for yourself."
(UnfoldingLight.com)

Litany of Reassurance

(based on the Matthew 14:22-33; Genesis 37:1-28; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Isaiah 43:1-3a)

When the wind is strong and the waves are high,
remember the words of Jesus:

Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.

When our dreams come to nothing,
and we wonder what lies ahead,
remember the words of Jesus:

Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.

When those we love disappoint us,
or hurt us deeply,
remember the words of Jesus:

Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.

When we begin to question God's call,
or doubt God's love,
remember the words of Jesus:

Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.

When we've lost all hope,
and don't know where to turn,
remember the words of Jesus:

Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.

When our faith is stretched to the breaking point,
remember the words of Jesus:

**Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid,
for I have redeemed you.**

I have called you by name; you are Mine.

**When you go through deep waters,
I will be with you.**

When you pass through rivers of difficulty,

**you will not be overwhelmed.
When you walk through the fire,
you shall not be burned,
and the flame will not consume you.
For I am the Lord, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.**

When skies grow dark and all we see are shadows

The road too rough, the mountains rise too far
When pain runs deep, and wounds cry out for answers
We come to you, O Jesus of the Scars
What other god chose to be born in weakness
Knew toil and tears and felt our deepest woe?
Then to a cross, to bear our sin and sorrow
And so, we worship you, O Jesus of the Scars

When nights are long, and daylight weighs so heavy
Where can we go to ease the troubled mind
The Man of grief once crushed in dark Gethsemane
Says 'do not fear 'I'll take you by the hand
Our wounds cry out but yours will have the final word
And in your scars, we glimpse our story's end
O glorious Day - death swallowed up in victory
For this we worship you, O Jesus of the Scars

When all is healed, and every might-have-been will be
And every sad, sad story comes untrue
When heaven's love floods back through time and history
And all things lost and broken are made new
When clouds are gone, and earth's illusions disappear
When faith is sight and hope reality
We'll see your face and nothing else will matter
And there we'll worship you, O Jesus of the Scars
(Graham Kendrick)

**We believe in God who created us,
who loves us and makes us whole.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's Son,
whose life, death, and resurrection
are our salvation
and our example.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit of God
who calls us to abundant life. Amen.**
(Eastwooduca)

God in community, holy in One
as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer,
give us patience and courage never to lose hope,
but always to bring our prayers before you;
so we pray in faith and trust,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought in the day and the night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father and I Thy true child
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Be Thou my breast-plate, my sword for the fight
Be Thou my armour, and be Thou my might
Thou my soul's shelter, be Thou my high tower
Raise Thou me Heavenward, O power of my power

Riches I heed not, nor all the world's praise
Thou mine inheritance, through all my ways
Thou and Thou only, the first in my heart
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art

High King of Heaven, when the battle is done
Grant Heaven's joy to me, bright Heaven's sun
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall
Be thou my vision, O Ruler of all
(Traditional)

Go from this place with joy,
giving thanks to God,
proclaiming God's goodness,
celebrating love,
and worshipping with your lives.
The Lord our God
is faithful to a thousand generations.
May the blessing of God Almighty,
Eternal Love, Incarnate Word and Abiding Spirit,
Be with you now and in the days ahead. **Amen.**

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you

Wherever He may send you
May He guide you through the wilderness
Protect you through the storm
May He bring you home rejoicing
At the wonders He has shown you
May He bring you home rejoicing
Once again into our doors
(Traditional Northumbrian Blessing)

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