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A short act of worship for use in peoples homes

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Call to worship

Lord you have called us here,
And we have come, to worship you.

Your Spirit is already here amongst us,
And your love is all around us.

May we know your presence Lord, during this time together.

Amen.¹

Hymn: Be still for the presence of the Lord - [YouTube](#)

Opening Prayers

In the storms of life Jesus you say 'Peace, be still.'
So as we begin our worship, we say 'Peace, be still.'

Thank you for this day and for the blessings that you bring to us this new day.
'Peace, be still.'

Calming God, who speaks peace over the raging sea, we invite you into our worship.
'Peace, be still.'

Caring God, who encourages us to trust, may our ears be attentive to listen to your voice.

Open our hearts to receive so that we might leave changed.
'Peace, be still.'

Ever present God who is with us in the boat of life, open our eyes so that we can see your presence.
'Peace, be still.'

As we navigate the storms of life together, we say Jesus we need you and we need each other.
'Peace, be still.'

Strengthen and embolden us during this journey and breathe wind into our sails.
'Peace, be still.'

Amen.²

Let us now say the Lord's prayer

¹ Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

² Opening prayers written by Matthew Forsyth

Readings: 1 Samuel 17:32-49 – [Click for Reading](#)

2 Corinthians 6:1-13 – [Click for Reading](#)

Mark 4:35-41 – [Click for Reading](#)

Reflections on the reading

[Today's reflection is written by The Vine Editor – Tim Baker. You can read and make use of the full reflection in this week's Vine resources – contact thevine@twelvebaskets.co.uk to subscribe.]

Henry Stewart, the business leader, writes in his book 'The Happy Manifesto' about the limitations of always focusing on our weaknesses. Rather, he invites us to think more about what we are good at, and spend our time and energy on that. For example, he highlights the typical 'appraisal' process in a business setting, where people discuss their strengths and weaknesses and then spend the rest of the time concentrating on how their weaknesses can be improved, worked upon, trained out of them, etc.

And this is not just true in business life, is it? It's true in our whole lives, and in our Christian discipleship. How often do we spend all our time and energy on our perceived weaknesses, when we could be focusing on our strengths, our gifts, our own role within the larger body of Christ.

What about you? What is your role? Where you are being challenged to use your strengths, try to come to at least one concrete action that you can take this week, something that will make a difference.

Let us sit for a moment, and in the quiet, I want you to imagine yourself doing something you love, and something you think you are quite good at. Perhaps you are on your own, or perhaps with others. Perhaps it is a particular task, or leisure activity. Perhaps it's taking place in one particular location, which is what makes it so special.

As we hold the quiet, just continue to imagine yourself doing that activity. Enjoying it. Flourishing...

[Hold a few moments of quiet].

I want you to remember what this feels like.
I want you to hold the strength of this feeling.
This is your strength, lean on it.

[Pause].

Now, how can you use this feeling of strength in your life? How can you use it to face the storms that are coming this week, this month, this year?
How can you take your strengths, and make them tools for making the world a better place?
Use these next few moments to decide – what can you do?
What can I do?
What can each one of us do, that will make use of our strengths this week?

[Hold a few moments of quiet].

Holy God, take these moments, take this energy, take these commitments, and use them for your mission here on earth.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.³

Prayers of intercession

Jesus, you calmed the storm
Commanded the waves to become ripples, and the wind to fall silent,
Your words calmed the hearts of your friends.

Be still.
Be still and believe.
Be still and know.

Jesus, calm the storms in the hearts of your people.

In the hearts of those who do not feel safe in the place they should call home,
In the hearts of those who live in war-torn nations, fearing for their families,
In the hearts of those whose loved ones are far away, fighting in the midst of conflict,

Jesus, calm the storms in the hearts of your people

In the hearts of those whose lives have been torn apart by grief,
In the hearts of those who live with regret,
In the hearts of those who feel helpless in the face of impossible circumstances,
In the hearts of those who worry about someone they love,

Jesus, calm the storms in the hearts of your people,

Jesus, help us to calm the storms in the hearts of your people.

Compel us to speak peace,
Embody peace,
Make peace,
In all we say,
In all we do,
In all we are,

³ Reflection written by Tim Baker

In your gracious and beautiful name, we pray,
Amen.⁴

Hymn: Lord you call us to your service - [YouTube](#)

Blessing

Go with courage, followers of the Christ.
Go into a world crying out for love and hope.
Go to spread peace.
Go, and the Spirit of God goes before you.
Amen.⁵

⁴ Prayers of intercession written by Emma Dobson

⁵ Additional prayers by Tim Baker