

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES: BY FAITH

March 18, 2026

“The Faith of the Israelites”

What is faith? The text from Hebrews 11:1 defines it in this way: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” This series focuses on the book of Hebrews, especially the eleventh chapter.

OPENING DIALOGUE

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways, by the prophets, **but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.**

He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, **and he sustains all things by his powerful word.**

Since we have confidence by the new and living way opened for us by Jesus, **let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“We’ve Come This Far by Faith”

HEBREWS 11:1, 29-40

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

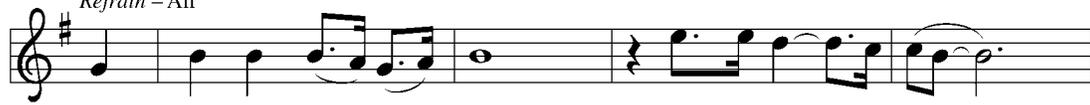
³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

REFLECTIONS

HOLDEN VILLAGE EVENING PRAYER

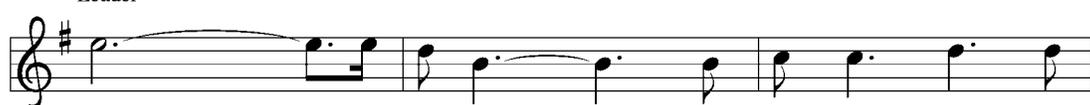
We've Come This Far by Faith

Refrain - All



We've come this far by faith, lean-ing on the Lord;
trust-ing in his ho-ly word, he's nev-er failed us yet.
Oh, can't turn a-round, we've come this far by
faith. We've come this far by faith.

Leader



1 Just re-mem-ber the good things God has
2 Don't be dis-cour-aged with trou-ble in your
done, things that seemed im-pos-si-ble; oh,
life; he'll bear your . . . bur-dens, and

Refrain



praise him for the vic-t'ries he has won. Oh!
move . . . all the dis-cord and strife. Oh!

Text: Albert A. Goodson, 1933–2003

Music: THIS FAR BY FAITH, Albert A. Goodson

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