



~AT HOME WORSHIP~

Sunday 27th March 2022

Theme: Outrageous Love



On Mothering Sunday, we appreciate the presence and importance of nurturing love for us. Life's challenges can mean we forget this love. We can become lost through the mistakes and wrong choices we make, or perhaps by the pressure and responsibility we feel under to get things right. The joy is that God's outrageous love is always, always there, welcoming us home again.

Call to worship



God, our father,
we quieten ourselves to be present
to ourselves, to you and to each other.
We come as we are, sometimes lost,
because we choose our way and not yours,
because we make an outward show of your way,
but without love – and that is not your way.
Thank you for your outrageous love,
always and forever welcoming us home.

Amen

A Prayer of Thanks

When a daffodil or the first snowdrop comes into bloom:

We catch a glimpse of God in the ordinary.

When the sun is rising, or the sun is setting:

We catch a glimpse of God in the ordinary.

When a baby is born, or a chick is hatched:

We catch a glimpse of God in the ordinary.

When we feel the warm embrace of a family hug:

We catch a glimpse of God in the ordinary.

When we eat the bread and drink the wine:

We catch a glimpse of God in the ordinary.

Transforming God, wherever we are, whatever we do,
whether we are at home, work or school,

help us to see the miracle in the ordinary,
and to catch a glimpse of your glory in our midst.

Amen.

Saying Sorry

Take a moment to think about things that have got in the way of our relationship with God

Lord God, we confess that the daily grind consumes us.
We struggle to see beyond the needs of day-to-day life.
We don't lift our eyes to heaven for inspiration, let alone miracle.
We are chained to earthly demands.
Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of faith and imagination;
we look to you for transformation.
Forgive us for failing to open our minds to the miracles of living;
open our eyes, change our thinking and understanding.
Come, Lord, transform our way of being;
make us vessels wherein the ordinary becomes extraordinary,
for Jesus' sake.

Lord God, we thank you for forgiving us when we forget;
when, in the midst of cares and woes, we forget what you can do.
Thank you for surprising us at such times, Lord,
by forgiving us when we've forgotten what it is to go astray
in thought and attitude as well as deeds.
Our minds mired in the murk of anxiety about our needs and wants,
you surprise us with a reminder of your presence, generous in your bounty
– just like the father with his arms held open to welcome his son, thank you for your
transforming power in our lives.

Amen. [StF 443 Come, let us sing of a wonderful love - YouTube](#)

Hymn Come let us sing of a wonderful love 72

Come, let us sing of a wonderful love, tender and true;
Out of the heart of the Father above, streaming to me and to you;
Wonderful love dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Jesus, the Saviour, this gospel to tell, joyfully came;
Came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell, sharing their sorrow and shame.
Seeking the lost, saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet; Why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget; Home weary wanderer, home!
Wonderful love dwells in the heart of the father above.

Come to my heart , O Thou wonderful love, come and abide.
Lifting my life , till it rises above envy and falsehood and pride.
Seeking to be lowly and humble, a learner of Thee

Mothers

What do you remember your mother teaching you? Or maybe your grandma teaching you? To live the right way, to tell the time, to bake cakes, to knit (possibly only if you are female, I don't remember boys being taught to knit), to be kind, to be helpful, to tell the truth and to love God. The Jewish mothers, way back in the old testament days, had a way of remembering these values.

Bible reading Deuteronomy 11 v 18-20

"Remember these commands and cherish them. Tie them on your arms and wear them on your foreheads as a reminder. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you at home and when you are away, when you are resting and when you are working. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates.

Can you match these bible mothers to their children.?

Hannah

Lois

Salome

Jochebed

Mary

Grandma Eunice

Mother in law Naomi

Moses

Jesus

Ruth

Timothy

Samuel

James and John

Timothy

I wonder, did the younger son in our parable from Luke remember the values his mother and father had taught him at last , as he came home.



Bible reading Luke 15 v11- 32

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So, he told them this parable: 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So, he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So, he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

REFLECTION TIME

This is possibly the most well-known of Jesus' parables. As so often, Jesus doesn't give any explanation of its meaning, but lets the story speak for itself. He was telling it for the religious leaders in particular to hear. They were upset that Jesus was the sort of teacher who welcomed all types of people to be his followers including those with unacceptable behaviour. The son hurts the father, really hurts him and brings shame upon the family as feeding pigs was the lowest of the low. That is how the crowds who were listening would have interpreted it. This is also part of a series of lost and found stories. In each of the stories Jesus gives clues as to what God is like. In this story the father never gives up hope that his younger son will come home. He never disowns or forgets him, but waits patiently. When the son does come back, it is interesting that the father says nothing to his wayward boy, There are no words of rebuke or anger, he does not say 'I told you so' or even offer words of forgiveness, simply an extravagant welcome. Gifts of a ring and sandals mean that he is fully accepted back into the family.

However, there is another brother and another message too. This other brother knows his brother to be a wastrel; he cannot see why his father is thrilled to take him back. He is jealous about the party and, in a fit of self-righteous grumpiness, he refuses to join in the fun. As Jesus was speaking, his audience would have recognised him as depicting people who could only see wrong. The people who chose to focus on the choice of company Jesus kept, tax collectors, sinners or illegal miracles on the sabbath, but forgot the joy he brought and the healing he performed.

When the Covid-19 vaccination campaign got under way, a call went out for people to encourage others to get the jab. Words and actions together, designed to break down the walls of fear and suspicion. Christians who have experienced the breaking down of the barriers that divided them from God should embody that reconciling message to others. The younger son wanted to go home, home where I expect mum was. Mum does not get a mention but I like to imagine she was there, cleaning house, cooking meals, making clothes. At Home

Home is where the heart is.
I want... to go home.
But do they want me?
I left without a care in the world,
the world at my feet.
I had it all:
money, time, adventure.
But it hasn't worked out quite as I imagined it.
I now have nothing.
I am nothing.
I want... to go home.
What if I am rejected?
What if they hate me?

Will they recognise me?
Will they understand?
I want... to go home.
Over that hill top
is all I have ever
needed.
I just did not see it.
I understand that now.
I want... to go home.
My mother, my father,
my brother, my home.
I wouldn't blame them.
This is of my making.

One foot in front of the
other,
I set off into the unknown,
I am heading home,
where my heart has always
been.
I just didn't know it.
But I do now.
I want... to go home.

Questions. Let us spend a moment thinking

- What is it that finally prompts the younger son to go home?.....
- Do you think the father is treating his two boys fairly?
- The people listening would have realised that this parable was really about them. What sort of reaction do you think it received?...
-

The BRF book suggests we draw a map and our house on a piece of paper, then a wandering line all around the map. As we follow the line we pray 'Father God , help me not to wander away from you and your love. If I do , bring me back safely. Help me to remember that you are always waiting for me'. Let us try this.

On Good Friday folk from Holy Trinity Church are going to walk around the West Swindon streets then back to our home church in Shaw. We are going to pray at different places on the walk.

How shall we remember this bible story? What made the young man go home? Thinking about home, realising his mistakes, missing his parents? Maybe it was just the pigs.



An idea for Grandmas to share with the grandchildren. Even with COVID cases high we can still teach the young to create some memorable images that will remind them of the values of home.

Hymn 1229 [Father, Hear the Prayer We Offer \(Tune: Sussex - 4vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

Father hear the prayer we offer,
Not for ease that prayer shall be.
But for strength, that we may ever
Live our lives courageously

Not for ever in green pastures
Do we ask our way to be;
But by steep and rugged pathways
Would we strive to climb to Thee?

Not for ever by still waters
Would we idly quiet stay?
But would smite the living fountains
From the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,
In our wanderings be our Guide;
Through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be Thou at our side.

Let our path be bright or dreary,
Storm or sunshine be our share,
May our souls, in hope unwearied,
Make thy work our ceaseless prayer.

Prayers For Others And Ourselves

Loving God, thank you that you are ready to welcome us home whenever we wander away.

In our prayers for others we pray for those who face exclusion because of race, colour, sexuality or disability.

Help us in our actions to imitate your inclusive love.

We pray for all for whom 'home' is not a safe place, where instead it is a place of fear and violence.

We pray for those far from 'home' seeking refuge in foreign lands waiting for a time when it will be safe to return.

We pray for those where 'home' is a borrowed sofa, an underground cellar or worse still a shop door.

Longing for a warm bed to call their own.

We pray for those in fear of losing their 'home' for want of a secure job or enough to live on, seeking a certain future.

We pray for those with a 'home' to call their own, that they never take this for granted, always mindful of those less fortunate.

Help us, O God, to be people of welcome to all who need it.

Amen.

We pray for leaders everywhere:

for the leaders of the world's most powerful nations...

for the leaders of the poorest nations...

for the leaders of our own nation...

for the leaders of our churches...

May they be blessed with wisdom, humility and compassion.

We pray for those entrusted with great responsibilities:

in hospitals...in schools...in care homes...

May they be blessed with wisdom, humility and compassion.

We pray for those who influence and inspire others:

pop stars...actors...sports men and women...writers...artists...storytellers...

May they be blessed with wisdom, humility and compassion.

And we pray for one another and for ourselves,

that as we live out our lives,

we too may be blessed with wisdom, humility and compassion. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn/Song: Rejoice the Lord is King (SOF 482)

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore:
Mortals, give thanks and sing,
And triumph ever more:

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice! Again I say: Rejoice!*

Jesus the Saviour reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When He had purged our stains,
He took His seat above.

His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o're earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given.

He sits at God's right hand
Till all his foes submit
And bow to His command
And fall beneath His feet

Rejoice in glorious hope,
Jesus the judge shall come
And take his servants up
To their eternal home.

Sending Out Prayer

Each of you are loved and valued,
blessed by God,
cherished by God,
beloved by God.
So,
live happily,
live freely,
live wisely,
And may God's love enfold you,
may God's joy fill you,
may God's mercy wash over you,
now and forevermore.

Amen.

Dismissal

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all, evermore. **Amen**

God bless you now and always



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