**At Home Order of Service**

**Sunday 11th of September 2022**

**This Sunday’s theme**

“Mission Possible”

## Welcome

In our worship today on this 13th Sunday after Trinity let us remember that the love of God for his people and for his church knows no limits. The Psalmist talks of God’s love reaching up to the heavens and his justice to the depth of the ocean, and yet he blesses us as individuals with the gifts of his Spirit so that his Church, his people might be a light in this place, to his glory.

**Hymn: I stand amazed**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwJ3aALR3Z4>

**I stand amazed in the presence**
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how He could love me,
A sinner, condemned, unclean.

How marvellous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvellous! How wonderful!
Is my Saviour’s love for me!

He took my sins and my sorrows,
He made them His very own;
He bore the burden to Calvary,
And suffered and died alone.

How marvellous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvellous! How wonderful!
Is my Saviour’s love for me!

When with the ransomed in glory
His face I at last shall see,
’Twill be my joy through the ages
To sing of His love for me.

How marvellous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvellous! How wonderful!
Is my Saviour’s love for me!

Father God, we bring our offering of worship and with it the service of our lives through this coming week. May we go from this place knowing that we have met with you and been blessed by your Spirit, to live and work to your glory. **Amen**

Living God whose Word became flesh in Jesus and whose Spirit of Truth speaks into our hearts all honour and glory and worship belong to you. As our praises pronounce your wonder may our lives overflow with love, that our words and deeds might tell of your goodness and declare your infinite grace. **Amen**.

**Confession**

Gracious God with gratitude and gladness we hear your promise of liberation: that in Christ we are forgiven and set free, and restored to serve you. Thanks be to you, Living God! **Amen.**

**Collect,**

Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness now and in all our days through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Readings:**

**1 Timothy 1.12-17;**

**12**I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. **13**Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. **14**The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

**15**Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. **16**But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. **17**Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**Luke 15.1-10**

**The Parable of the Lost Sheep**

**15**Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. **2**But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

**3**Then Jesus told them this parable: **4**“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? **5**And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders **6**and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ **7**I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

**The Parable of the Lost Coin**

**8**“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+15.1-10&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25597a)] and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? **9**And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ **10**In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

**Thought of the week from Roots**:

Have you ever had one of those moments when you’ve lost or misplaced something – but you need it immediately? You knew exactly where it was (or where you thought it was), but it’s not there now. And, instead of calmly thinking about it, you rush around looking in every conceivable place. It might be your keys, phone or glasses – finding it becomes so important that you won’t settle until it’s found. Jesus’ two parables – of the lost sheep and coin – convey something of that feeling when you’re searching and of the sheer relief and joy when you find whatever it is.

Let’s look at the stories from two completely different viewpoints.

If we had been one of the people welcomed by Jesus when others normally ignored us, the stories speak of a God who goes out of his way to search for us. God doesn’t sit calmly and hope we will turn up. And that feeling of loss and frustration when we can’t find something? God feels like that over anyone who doesn’t feel welcome in or part of the kingdom.

Let’s start with ourselves – do you know that God cares that much about you? Sometimes, it’s easy to know in our heads that God loves us; but to acknowledge that God actually likes us is much harder. We know the things we get wrong, the times we haven’t lived up to God’s standards; but to hear that God loves us anyway is harder. It almost feels unjust; surely, we have to keep the rules, live the perfect life? God knows that isn’t how humans are. Do you know in your heart, as well as your mind, that God truly and always loves you?

But consider the stories from another angle. The religious leaders of Jesus’ time were passionate about serving God and behaving correctly. However, they were so fixated on doing, saying – and eating – the right things that they forgot that God’s command wasn’t only to love God, but also to love their neighbours. Instead of welcoming all, they had created a ‘them and us’ society. They had allowed their – as they thought, Godly – practices to blind them and prevent them seeing all the people whom God wanted them to love.

Do we do this too, at least sometimes? Do our ways of worshipping and serving God, of being Godly people, exclude others? Who isn’t here with us today? Why? The religious leaders, watching Jesus, blamed the sinners – they didn’t keep the law; it was their own fault. But Jesus tried to show them that God welcomed these people even if they didn’t. I wonder what Jesus would want to point out to us, about why people who aren’t here with us don’t come and may feel excluded. Could it possibly be that we are preventing them?

We need to remember two things: God loves us, and God wants us to welcome everyone.

**You Say by Lauren Daigle**

<https://youtu.be/sIaT8Jl2zpI>

I keep fighting voices in my mind that say I'm not enough

Every single lie that tells me I will never measure up

Am I more than just the sum of every high and every low?

Remind me once again just who I am, because I need to know,

ooh oh

**You say** I am loved when I can't feel a thing

You say I am strong when I think I am weak

And You say I am held when I am falling short

And when I don't belong,

oh, You say I am Yours

And I believe (I), oh, I believe (I)

What You say of me (I) I believe

The only thing that matters now is everything You think of me

In You I find my worth,

in You I find my identity, ooh oh

You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing

You say I am strong when I think I am weak

And You say I am held when I am falling short

When I don't belong,

oh, You say I am Yours

And I believe (I), oh, I believe (I)

What You say of me (I) Oh, I believe

Taking all I have and now I'm layin' it at Your feet

You'll have every failure God,

You'll have every victory, ooh oh

You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing

You say I am strong when I think I am weak

You say I am held when I am falling short

When I don't belong, oh,

You say I am Yours

And I believe (I), oh, I believe (I)

What You say of me (I) I believe

 Oh, I believe (I), yes, I believe (I)

What You say of me (I) I believe (oh)

Songwriters: Jason Ingram, Lauren Daigle, Paul Brendon Mabury
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Data From: [LyricFind](https://www.lyricfind.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**Reading**

**Jesus said, ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’**

**John 14.1-6**

**Reflection**

**· What stands out in your memory about The Queen?**

**· What will you always remember about her?**

**· What did you learn through her life and death, including about God in Jesus Christ?**

**· As we mourn the loss of the late Queen we pray for the new King, and for hope for the future.**

**Eternal God, our heavenly Father, we bless your holy name for all that you have given us in and through the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth.**

**We give you thanks: for her love of family and her gift of friendship; for her devotion to this nation and the nations of the Commonwealth;**

**for her grace, dignity and courtesy;**

**and for her generosity and love of life. We praise you for: the courage that she showed in testing times; the depth and of her Christian faith;**

**and the witness she bore to it in word and deed.**

**We pray for our Sovereign Lord the King**

**and all the Royal Family,**

**that you might reassure them of your continuing love**

**and lift them from the depths of grief**

**into the peace and light of your presence**. **Amen**

### **Prayers of intercession**

The cares of the world can draw us away from you, Lord.
Like a coin falling into the shadows,
sudden misfortune enters our lives and we are lost,
rolling away from all that held us safe.
We pray for all those affected by serious illness,
breakdown of relationships or loss of employment.

The temptations of the world can lead us astray, Lord.
Like sheep sighting a patch of greener grass,
we go after what is new and more exciting.
We pray for all who are tempted away
from what is right, meaningful and good.

Where darkness has descended, Lord,
when more attractive propositions beckon,
we pray that people won’t forget you –
because you won’t forget them.
And as you love and care for us,
so may we look out for one another –
to seek and to bring safely home.

Loving Lord your compassion knows no bounds and you care for every part of the globe; we pray for those suffering as a result of floods especially the people of Pakistan:

* those whose homes are under water
* those who have lost loved ones
* villages isolated as a result of the destruction of bridges and roads
* those who have been evacuated and who know live in overcrowded makeshift camps
* those who have lost fields and crops.

Give wisdom to the government as it seeks to implement a recovery programme and give generosity to other nations that they may support its endeavours.

You call us to bear our crosses, give those who need it:
**strength to bear their crosses and wisdom to know the way forward**

Loving Lord you are the Prince of Peace, we pray for an end to all violence and warfare throughout the world. We hold before you:

* those who are suffering as a result of war and civil war
* those who have lost loved ones
* those who have been injured
* those who have lost homes and livelihoods
* those who are fearful.

We especially ask for your comfort and strength for the peoples of Ukraine and Iraq.

You call us to bear our crosses, give those who need it:
**strength to bear their crosses and wisdom to know the way forward**

Loving Lord you share our joy and our pain. We pray for those who have recently received examination results; those who are rejoicing at a clear way forward; those who are processing thoughts for their future. We pray for their families and those who offer counsel and advice. We hold before you children starting school; those going into new classes and new schools; those beginning college and university; those looking for work and those beginning new jobs.

You call us to bear our crosses, give those who need it:
**strength to bear their crosses and wisdom to know the way forward**

Loving Lord you teach us to love one another, we pray for those who have been victims of violent crime; for families of murder victims; for those who seek to support them; for the police and justice system. We pray for those traumatised by what they have witnessed; those who struggle to find hope for the future; those who keep asking ‘Whats the point?’

You call us to bear our crosses, give those who need it:
**strength to bear their crosses and wisdom to know the way forward**

Loving Lord, grant to all who are struggling the knowledge of your encouraging presence, the aid of your strength and the power of your peace. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen** .

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vm-A5NlkI8U>

**I watch the sunrise lighting the sky,**
Casting its shadows near.
And on this morning bright though it be,
I feel those shadows near me.

But you are always close to me
Following all my ways.
May I be always close to you
Following all your ways, Lord.

I watch the sunlight shine through the clouds,
Warming the earth below.
And at the mid-day, life seems to say:
I feel your brightness near me.

For you are always
Following all my ways.
May I be always close to you
Following all your ways, Lord.

I watch the sunset fading away,
Lighting the clouds with sleep.
And as the evening closes its eyes,
I feel your presence near me.

For you are always
Following all my ways.
May I be always close to you
Following all your ways, Lord.

I watch the moonlight guarding the night,
Waiting till morning comes.
The air is silent, earth is at rest
Only your peace is near me.

Yes, you are always
Following all my ways.
May I be always close to you
Following all your ways, Lord.

Source: [Musixmatch](https://www.musixmatch.com/)

Songwriters: Murphy / Glynn

Generous God, you have nourished us with your word. Take us, bless us and send us, that our lips be touched with the gentleness of your peace; that our hearts burn with your passion and integrity; that our lives declare the good news of your love for the whole creation, in the name of Christ, **Amen**

Faithful God whose Word does not return empty but accomplishes all that you purpose, may your blessings fall like rain to water the earth, nourishing seed for our food, and filling us with the abundance of your love, through Jesus Christ your living Word. **Amen.**

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