**At Home Order of Service**

**Sunday 4th of September 2022**

**This Sunday’s theme**

“Navigating Decisions”

## Welcome

In our worship today on this 12th 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.

## [Jesus Christ is Waiting [with lyrics for congregations] - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CSzEviUc_o)

**Jesus Christ is waiting, Waiting in the streets;**  
No one is his neighbour, All alone he eats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.  
Make me, friend or stranger,  
Fit to wait on you

Jesus Christ is raging, Raging in the streets,  
Where injustice spirals And real hope retreats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.  
In the Kingdom’s causes  
Let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing, Healing in the streets;  
Curing those who suffer, Touching those he greets.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.  
Let my care be active,  
Healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing, Dancing in the streets,  
Where each sign of hatred He, with love, defeats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.  
On suspicion’s graveyard  
Let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling, Calling in the streets,  
”Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.”  
Listen, Lord Jesus, Let my fears be few.  
Walk one step before me;  
I will follow you. ©1988  WGRG, Iona Community, Govan, Glasgow G51 3UU, Scotland

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,**

God ofconstant mercy, who sent your Son to save us: remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us, that our thankfulness may grow, through Jesus Christ our Lord**. Amen.**

**The Readings:**

**Philemon 1:1-21**

**1**Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker— **2**also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and to the church that meets in your home:

**3**Grace and peace to you[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philemon&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29942a)] from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Thanksgiving and Prayer**

**4**I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, **5**because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. **6**I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. **7**Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord’s people.

**Paul’s Plea for Onesimus**

**8**Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, **9**yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— **10**that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philemon&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29949b)] who became my son while I was in chains. **11**Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. **12**I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. **13**I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. **14**But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. **15**Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— **16**no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

**17**So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. **18**If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. **19**I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. **20**I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. **21**Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

**Luke 14.25-33 NIV**

**25**Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: **26**“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. **27**And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

**28**“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? **29**For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, **30**saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

**31**“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? **32**If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. **33**In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

**Thought of the week from Roots**:

I wonder what you’re saving up for? Perhaps you’re hoping to buy a bike, or the latest game, or a house? How do you do it? What choices do you have to make to save?

What we are prepared to do often shows how much we really want something. In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells the crowd that staying with him is going to be hard. They need to really want this. They need to be determined enough to walk all the way to the cross with him. Jesus knows that he is on the way to Jerusalem and all that that means. But, why are they following? They need to prioritise. No one else, nothing else. Have they really thought about it – like the tower builder and king they need to be sure before they commit.

I wonder who you would relate to in the crowd following Jesus? Are you one of the disciples who has already recognised that being a follower is challenging? Are you one of the crowd enjoying the feel-good factor of following, but it’s not changing who you are? What difference does it really make to be a follower of Jesus? What are the consequences?

The other readings this week add to this message and help our understanding. The psalmist declares that unless we’re rooted in God’s word, we’ll be like tiny bits of straw disappearing when the wind blows – like the crowd do when the going gets tough. Moses offers the people a similar choice: Live the way of the people around them (and perish) or choose to live in God’s way (and truly live). And Philemon is given a hard choice. Onesimus was his slave who ran away. Now Philemon is asked not only to forgive him but to welcome him back as a brother. This is an example of walking God’s way – to be willing to risk others judging him, because you put love before pride and hurt.

Consider the last week or so; in what ways have we noticed that being a follower of Jesus means prioritising God’s way? In everything? For some of us it’s obvious and challenging. We know that there’s bad practice or treatment where we work or study, that people are being mistreated or systems are unjust. We need to decide what to do. As Christians we can’t ignore this. Is there injustice in our community? Do we need to name it and try to change it? We’ll also have more personal choices – do we allow our faith to influence the things we shop for, the way we treat the environment, our attitude to other people? This might be costly. To buy Fairtrade bananas or eco-friendly cleaning products might mean less money for something else. Standing up for justice might mean changing job or risking staying and enabling better practice.

I wonder what you’re saving up for? Have you allowed for how costly following Jesus might be?

### [**Prayers of intercession**](javascript:void(0))

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** .

[Send The Fire (with lyrics) - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qydwzaeVa0)

**O God of burning cleansing flame**  
Send the fire  
Your blood-bought gift today we claim  
Send the fire today  
Look down and see this waiting host  
And send the promised Holy Ghost  
We need another Pentecost  
Send the fire today Send the fire today

God of Elijah hear our cry  
Send the fire  
And make us fit to live or die  
Send the fire today  
To burn up every trace of sin  
To bring the light and glory in  
The revolution now begin  
Send the fire today Send the fire today

It's fire we want for fire we plead  
Send the fire  
The fire will meet our every need  
Send the fire today  
For strength to always do what's right  
For grace to conquer in the fight  
For power to walk the world in white  
Send the fire today Send the fire today

To make our weak hearts strong and brave  
Send the fire  
To live a dying world to save  
Send the fire today  
Oh see us on Your altar lay  
We give our lives to You today  
So crown the offering now we pray  
Send the fire today Send the fire today  
Send the fire today

Lord, go with us.  
Help us to seek your treasure.  
Help us to look for all you’re doing right now.  
Help us – by our example as much as by our words –  
to share your treasure and your life-giving story  
with the people we meet this week.  
**Amen.**

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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