

St. Augustine's Family Service

29 February 2004

THE STORY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Welcome

Please stand for the hymn

1. Tell me the old, old story
Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory,
Of Jesus and His love.
Tell me the story simply,
As to a little child;
For I am weak and weary
And helpless, and defiled.

Chorus

*Tell me the old, old story, (x3)
Of Jesus and His love.*

2. Tell me the story slowly,
That I may take it in –
That wonderful redemption
God's remedy for sin.
Tell me the story often,
For I forget so soon;
The early dew of morning
Has passed away at noon.

Chorus

Tell me the old old story.

3. Tell me the story softly,
With earnest tones and grave;
Remember, I'm the sinner
Whom Jesus came to save
Tell me the story always,
If you would really be
In any time of trouble
A comforter to me.

Chorus

4. Tell me the same old story
When you have cause to fear
That this world's empty glory
Is costing me too dear.
Yes, and, when *that* world's
glory
Shall dawn upon my soul,
Tell me the old, old story –
Christ Jesus makes me whole.

Chorus

Please sit.

In our service we shall tell the story of the Prodigal Son. It is a story from the Bible; if you'd like to follow the action, it's in Luke chapter 15 verses 11-32, which can be found on Page 1151 of the Church Bibles.

The beginning : leaving home

Please remain seated for the play

Freedom !

The Critics

Freedom and responsibility.

Leader

A prayer about freedom.

Thank You, Father God, that in You we find freedom. Help us to use that freedom wisely and not to neglect our responsibilities as members of Your family. Amen.

Together we sing, as a prayer :

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence praise,
In deeper reverence praise.

Please stand for the hymn

Lord, I will

1. Lord, I will, Lord, I will –
I will love You, I will praise You. Lord I will !
I have made up my mind to bless You, Lord;
Lord, I will; Lord, I will.
2. Lord, I will, Lord, I will –
I will love Your chosen people. Lord I will !
I have made up my mind to bless them, Lord;
Lord, I will; Lord, I will.
3. Lord, I will, Lord, I will –
I will follow You and serve You. Lord I will !
I have made up my mind to live by Your Word;
Lord, I will; Lord, I will.

The adventure : the Big City

Please sit for the play

Money works wonders !

The Critics

– but what sort of wonders ?

Leader

A prayer about work.

Thank you, Father God, for the chores that need doing in our homes.

Thank you for school and work;

thank you for each daily activity.

Help us to do each job cheerfully and without grumbling, so that, at the end of each day, we may look at everything we've done, both work and play, and be satisfied. Amen

Together we sing, as a prayer :

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence praise,
In deeper reverence praise.**

Please stand for the hymn

New every morning is the love

- 1. New every morning is the love
Our wakening and uprising prove;
Through sleep and darkness safely brought,
Restored to life and power and thought.**
- 2. New mercies each returning day
Hover around us while we pray;
New perils past, new sins forgiven,
New thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.**
- 3. If on our daily course our mind
Be set to hallow all we find,
New treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.**

**4. The trivial round, the common task,
Will furnish all I need to ask;
Room to deny ourselves, a road
To bring us daily nearer God.**

**5. Only, O Lord, in Thy dear love
Fit us for perfect rest above;
And help us, this and every day,
To live more nearly as we pray.**

The awakening : where's the money ?

Please sit for the play

No money – no wonders.

The Critics

What can he do now ?

INTERLUDE : LEAP YEAR

Learning to do things right isn't always easy,
and it can take a long time.

Leader A prayer about repentance and forgiveness.

Father God, forgive us for the times that we disappoint You, the times that we fail You. Help us to acknowledge our faults and failings before You, knowing that You forgive those who come to You with contrite hearts. Forgive us as we turn to You in repentance. Forgive us, Father God. Amen

Together we sing, as a prayer :

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence praise,
In deeper reverence praise.**

Please stand for the hymn I have decided to follow Jesus

1. I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus !
I have decided to follow Jesus –
No turning back, no turning back.
2. The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me !
The world behind me, the cross before me –
No turning back, no turning back.
3. Though none gone with me still I will follow,
Though none gone with me still I will follow !
Though none gone with me still I will follow –
No turning back, no turning back.
4. Where Jesus leads me, I'll surely follow,
Where Jesus leads me, I'll surely follow !
Where Jesus leads me, I'll surely follow –
No turning back, no turning back.
5. Sing glory, glory, and hallelujah,
Sing glory, glory, and hallelujah !
Sing glory, glory, and hallelujah –
No turning back, no turning back.

The homecoming : forgiveness

Please sit for the play

The Father's love.

The Critics

God's way.

Leader

A prayer of thanks for God's love.

Father God, thank You that You long for us to join Your family.
Thank You for Your love that reaches out to us wherever we may
be. Help us to respond to such love; forgive us when we are
indifferent to You. Amen

Together we sing, as a prayer :

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence praise,
In deeper reverence praise.**

Remain in prayer for the hymn

Such love

1. Such love, pure as the whitest snow;
Such love weeps for the shame I know;
Such love, paying the debt I owe;
O Jesus, such love.
2. Such love, stilling my restlessness;
Such love, filling my emptiness;
Such love, showing my holiness;
O Jesus, such love.
3. Such love, springs from eternity;
Such love, streaming through history;
Such love, fountain of life for me;
O Jesus, such love.

*The organist will play this hymn again; you are invited to use
this time to respond to the love that God has for us.*

Leader

A prayer for all in need of God's grace

Thank You, Lord God, for Your wonderful blessings.

We pray for all those who are still far away from You, asking that
Your amazing love and grace would reach into their lives and draw
them unto You. Amen

Please join in singing together the Lord's Prayer :

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done,
in earth, as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil,
for the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now
and for ever.
Amen.**

G i v i n g t h a n k s

Please stand for the hymn *Amazing Grace*

- 1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me !
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.**
- 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.**
- 3. Through many dangers toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**
- 4. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.**

Those taking part :

Alan Creak, Avril Welsh, Cole Bason, Ella Bason,
Graeme Thomas, Jan Chapple, Jean Creak, Leslie
Monigatti, Muriel Jones, Pam Kirkham.

We invite you to join us for a cuppa in the Hall (behind the church) at
the end of this service.

Family Service dates for 2004 :

10 AM on Sunday April 18th, May 30th, July 18th, August 29th,
October 31st

– and our special Christmas services –

5pm Sunday December 12th : Carol service and Barbecue;

7pm Friday December 24th : Christingle service

Please write these dates in your diary now; we would love you to join
us !

If anyone would like to take part in any of these services please 'phone
Jean (445-2737) at least two weeks before the date of the service.

Kids' Club for Primary School children meets in the Hall 3 :15pm –
4 :15pm each Tuesday during term time. All children are welcome.