

*St. Augustine's
Family Service*

October 30th 2005

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

*During this service we will be using the symbol of a fir
tree to remind us of life in all its fulness.*

Welcome

Please stand for the hymn

Fill now my life, O Lord my God

- 1. Fill now my life, O Lord my
God,
In every part with praise;
that my whole being may
proclaim
Your being and Your ways.**
- 2. Not for the lip of praise alone,
Nor yet the praising heart,
I ask, but for a life made up
Of praise in every part.**
- 3. Praise in the common things of
life,
its goings out and in;
praise in each duty and each
deed,
exalted or unseen.**
- 4. Fill every part of me with
praise;
Let all my being speak
Of You and of Your love, O Lord,
Poor though I be and weak.**
- 5. Then, Lord, from me You shall
receive
The praise and glory due;
And so shall I begin on earth
The song for ever new.**
- 6. So shall no part of day or night
from sacredness be free;
But all my life, with You my
God,
in fellowship shall be.**

Please sit

THE STORY OF THE TALENTS

*Matthew Chapter 25 Verses 14 to 30;
Page 1084 of the Church Bibles.*

Please stand to sing the hymn

Come to us, creative Spirit

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Please sit

"Talent" is one of those words whose current meaning, "a special natural ability or aptitude," is far removed from its original one. In the ancient world, the talent was a measure of weight. One could speak of a talent-weight of gold, silver or brass as we might speak of a pound or kilogram. The Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks and Romans all used the talent as a unit of measure, although the exact weight of a talent varied considerably: the Royal Babylonian talent averaged about 30 kilograms, while Greek talents weighed closer to 22 kilograms. The famous statue of Athena which once stood in the Parthenon was said to contain 40 talent-weight of pure gold about 880 kilograms, or eight ninths of a ton.

Over time, "talent" also came to refer to a unit of money the value of a talent weight. Thus the Babylonian silver talent was equal to 3,000 shekels. From Greek, "talent" was absorbed into the Latin vocabulary as talenta, the plural of talentum, referring to a unit of weight or money. From Latin, "talent" worked its way into French and thence into English.

USING OUR TALENTS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

Building the Sacred Tent

(called The Tabernacle of the Lord in older translations of the Bible).

Narrator

We thank You, Lord God for all these talents that were used to make the Sacred Tent.

We thank You, Lord God, for the talents that You have given to each one of us.

Help us to use these abilities to serve You.

ALL

Help us to use our talents to serve You. Amen.

Please stand for the hymn

Take my gifts and let me love You

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Please sit

It's not always easy to pinpoint when and why a word undergoes a radical change in meaning, but with "talent" this shift is clearly understood: its present meaning, "natural ability or aptitude," can be traced to a single highly influential text, the New Testament parable of the talents, which appears in differing versions in the gospels according to St. Luke and St. Matthew.

USING OUR TALENTS TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE.

Two stories about World War 1.

a b o u t A n z a c B i s c u i t s

It takes talent to design biscuits which will travel by sea for two months or more half way round the world with no refrigeration, and still be eatable !

Combine 1 cup rolled oats, 1 cup sifted plain flour, 1 cup sugar and three-quarters cup coconut. Combine 125g butter and 2 tablespoons golden syrup, stir over gentle heat until melted. Mix half teaspoon bicarbonate of soda with 1 tablespoon boiling water, add to melted butter mixture, stir into dry ingredients. Take teaspoonfuls of mixture and place on lightly greased oven trays; allow room for spreading. Cook in slow oven (150°C) for 20 minutes. Loosen while still warm, then cool on trays. Makes about 35.

a b o u t t h i s c h u r c h

Do you know that this church was built as a Memorial Church for those who gave their lives in the First World War ? Many local families fund-raised 'brick by brick' to get this church built. They used their talents and skills to make things to sell; they contributed their skills and time to help with the building; they did everything they could to build this church as a lasting memorial to those who had died in the First World War and as a place of worship and fellowship for the community of Stanley Bay.

– AND they did it during the depression, a truly wonderful testimony to their Lord and Saviour.

Narrator

Thank You God for all the people who used their talents to fund-raise and to build this church.

Help us to use our talents and skills for the good of this community.

ALL

Help us, Lord.

TALENT QUEST

It isn't just the spectacular talents that are valuable – and it isn't just the clever people who have talents.

TWO STORIES

Please stand for the hymn

All there is of me, Lord

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WHAT NEXT ?

A Symbolic offering

We now invite you to bring up the card that is in your programme and hang it on this tree as a symbol of your willingness to offer your talents and time to God.

Please remain seated as we sing again –

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Prayers; finally we sing 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.**

Please stand for the hymn

Take my Life and let it be

- 1. Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless
praise.**
- 2. Take my hands and let them
move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.**
- 3. Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.**
- 4. Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt
choose.**
- 5. Take my will and make it
thine:
It shall be no longer mine,
Take my heart; it is thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne.**
- 6. Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.**

Please remain standing for the Blessing.

Those taking part :

Names omitted

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

Christmas services –

5pm Sunday December 11th : Carol service and Barbecue;

7pm Saturday 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 (.....) 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.

COME TO THE VIDEO SHOW !

There will be a special screening of Rob Harley's "JOURNEYS" Video here on November 13th at 1 lam followed by a discussion. ALL WELCOME. Children will be looked after in the Hall and those who want to may bring a shared lunch for eating afterwards.

The video tells the story of two different people who used their particular talents to help other people.

ANZAC biscuits recipe :
<http://www.anzacday.org.au/history/ww1/anecdotes/bikkies.html>.

Notes on TALENTS :
<http://www.bridgew.edu/NewsEvtnt/BridRev/Archives/99Dec/talent.htm>