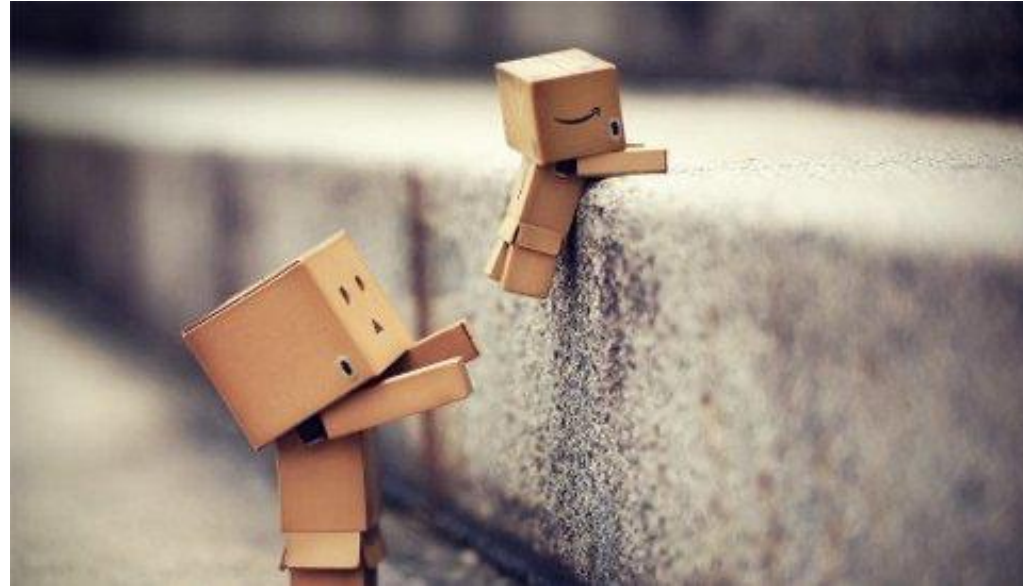


Welcome to Worship



Who needs help?

This is the day the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.





I wonder if
you have seen
any images
like these in
the news?



Ordinary time +



I wonder what
you notice?



I wonder how
these images
make you feel?



Ordinary time
+

My dear brothers, never think that some people are more important than others. Suppose someone comes into your church meeting wearing very nice clothes and a gold ring. At the same time a poor man comes in wearing old, dirty clothes. You show special attention to the one wearing nice clothes. You say, "Please, sit here in this good seat." But you say to the poor man, "Stand over there," or "Sit on the floor by my feet!"

What are you doing? You are making some people more important than others.

James 2: 1-4

I wonder what this Bible passage is saying to you?

I wonder what it tells you about how God feels about his people?

I wonder what God wants his people to act?



I wonder what
you notice?



Ordinary time +



In 100 years' time there will be no rainforests left on Earth if we don't do something now to save them.

They are being destroyed

They are dying

They need our help!



Ordinary time +

Just because we care about
and are helping the
rainforests ...



Does it mean we **don't** care
about the other forests?

Ordinary time +

Ordinary time +

No!

We care about all forests, but some need rescuing and looking after more at the moment.

This is a parable that Jesus told about a Shepherd and his sheep.
I wonder if you have heard this story before?

It is found in the New Testament in the book of Luke 15: 1-7



There was once a shepherd who had 100 sheep.

Each sheep was different.

Different personalities, different colour wool, old, young, rams and ewes.



The Shepherd knew each of the sheep and they knew him.

Each sheep was precious to him.

They recognised his voice and followed him to places of safety and rest and to find food and water.



At the end of a long day, the shepherd began to count his sheep.

96 ... 97 ... 98 ... 99 ... ?

He quickly realised one was missing!

Knowing that the other 99 sheep were safe in their pen, he set off to find and rescue his precious lost sheep.



The Shepherd searched high and low for his sheep. Where could it be? Realising the sheep must be in danger, he began to call out for him. Suddenly he heard a faint bleating sound. The shepherd ran towards the noise and found his missing sheep tangled in a bramble bush. Using his crook, he pulled the sheep out of the brambles.



His missing sheep was safe and out of danger!

The Shepherd carried his lost, scared and tired sheep back to the safety of the sheep pen.

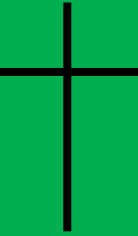


All the sheep were precious to the shepherd, but at times, some of his sheep needed more care and protection than others.

There are many people in our world who need help, rescuing or protecting just like the lost sheep in this story.

Some are in danger, some are lost, some are vulnerable, some are terrified, some are being teased, some are marginalised and some are simply ignored.

**THIS IS NOT RIGHT!
THIS IS NOT FAIR!**



I wonder who the lost sheep might represent in our world today?



I wonder what you could do to be like the shepherd?



Love your neighbour as you love yourself

Call out situations of injustice lovingly

Speak out and up for those who don't have a voice



*'We must go, live to feed the hungry
Stand beside the broken, we must go
Stepping forward keep us from just singing
Move us into action, we must go ...'*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3NeIRb1LY4>

God of Justice by Tim Hughes

Let us pray ...

Father God, we think about all those who are being treated unfairly in our world today. We ask you to bring help, comfort and protection to those who are frightened or upset.

Help us to speak out and up for situations of injustice, using our words wisely and lovingly.

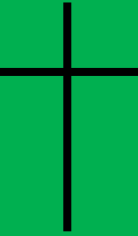
Amen



Remember ...

- You are precious to God.
- God created everyone to be equal.
- At times, some people need more help, support and care than others.

I wonder what you could do to help those who might be in danger or frightened like the sheep in the story?



Go in peace to love and serve the
Lord

In the name of Christ
Amen

Ordinary time

