

Service for Week 29th Sept- 5th October

2025 By Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

This is our God, the servant King,
he calls us now to follow him.
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.

Amen

Chorus from 'From heav'n you came helpless babe.'

By Graham Kendrick © Thankyou Music

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven.....

Amen

Bible Reading Luke 17: 5-10

The apostles said to the Lord,
"Increase our faith!" He replied, "If you
have faith as small as a mustard seed,
you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be
uprooted and planted in the sea,' and
it will obey you.

"Suppose one of you had a servant
plowing or looking after the sheep.
Would he say to the servant when he
comes in from the field, 'Come along
now and sit down to eat'? Would he
not rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get
yourself ready and wait on me while I
eat and drink; after that you may eat
and drink'? Would he thank the servant
because he did what he was told to
do?

So, you also, when you have done
everything, you were told to do, should
say, 'We are unworthy servants; we
have only done our duty.'"

Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

These words of Jesus, recorded by
Luke in response to the disciple's
request to 'increase our faith' are
echoed in Matthew and Mark's gospel.
In Matthew the verse reads:
He (Jesus) replied, "Because you have
so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you
have faith as small as a mustard seed,
you can say to this mountain, 'Move
from here to there' and it will move.
Nothing will be impossible for you.'"
From which we get the saying 'faith
can move mountains.'

Jesus was describing in a very
dramatic way just how powerful having
faith can be to achieve things that are
seemingly impossible. Back in the
1800's it seemed an impossible mission
to help feed and house the many
hundreds of people who were
desperately poor in London. But it was
an unfailing faith in God that made
William Booth a Methodist preacher
who, along with his wife, Catherine,
established the Salvation Army in
1865.

When Florence Nightingale heard
during the Crimean War that British
soldiers were dying of malnutrition and
disease, she felt called by God to go to
help. Women had not been allowed to
the front and there were no nurses
there, but despite this fact she finally
got permission in 1854 and set off with
38 women. Together they saved
thousands of lives.



In 1910 in Macedonia, Mother Teresa saw the extreme poverty around her in Calcutta and her strong faith led her to leave the convent where she was living and establish the Missionaries of Charity in 1950. Nelson Mandela served 27 years in prison in South Africa. On his release the seemingly impossible happened, an end to apartheid was negotiated which resulted in the 1994 multiracial general election in which Mandela became president. From his autobiography Long Walk to Freedom, Mandela states: "There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair. That way lay defeat and death". He also wrote that "Religion... is always best to treat the relationship between a man and his God as a purely personal affair, a question of faith and not of logic".

Today, Lord John Bird, 79, is the founder of The Big Issue, a magazine and social enterprise launched in 1991 to help homeless people earn a living and rebuild their lives. He was born into poverty and having experienced homelessness, being in prison, and hardship first-hand John Bird used his faith and his experiences to help the homeless through empowerment rather than charity alone. He said 'For me, the teachings of Jesus are still the purest form of thinking that I think confounds virtually every philosophy.'

Over the centuries great things have been done by men and women who through their faith in God have achieved what was thought impossible. In your life you may not think that your own faith in God has brought about such amazing changes to lives as these few examples. But think about those times in your life when you really thought the way ahead was impossible and yet through having even a little faith, and belief that God would bring you through it, gave you the strength and determination to go on.

In our reading Jesus continues by teaching about servanthood. In Jesus' time servants were a normal part of that society. I am sure that many people lorded it over their servants which was the way of the world. But Jesus shows us another way which is the opposite - to serve others and not expect to be treated in a special manner but to feel we have 'done our duty' to them. That Jesus says 'is the way to true greatness.' **Amen**

Closing Prayer

Loving God, I thank you that you are a God I can depend on, a God in whom I can put my trust.

I thank you for what that means for me today- that I can live each day with confidence, whatever my circumstances may be, knowing that, though all else may fail, you will not.

Amen.

Prayers inspired by 'Prayerfully Yours' by Nick Fawcett.