

***St. Augustine's
Family Service***

30 July 2006

FORGIVENESS

We welcome you here in the name of Jesus.

May we learn to be people who forgive.

"Jesus said, 'Do not condemn others, and God will not condemn you; forgive others and God will forgive you.' "

Luke Chapter 6 Verse 37

Please stand to sing the hymn

"I believe in Jesus".

1. **I believe in Jesus;
I believe He is the Son of
God.
I believe He died and rose
again,
I believe He paid for us all.
And I believe He's here now
Standing in our midst –
Here with the power to Heal
now,
And the grace to forgive.**

2. **I believe in You, Lord;
I believe You are the Son of
God.
I believe You died and rose
again,
I believe You paid for us all.
And I believe You're here now.
Standing in our midst –
Here with the power to heal
now,
And the grace to forgive.**

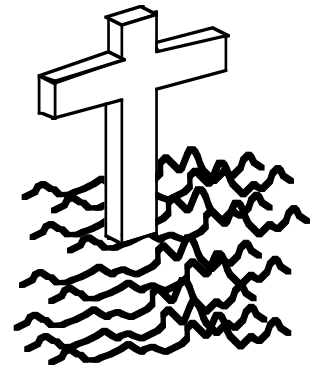
Please sit.

The CROSS and the SEA

*God "will trample our sins underfoot and send them
to the bottom of the sea"*

Micah chapter 7 verse 19

– and we must LEAVE THEM THERE.



The beginner's guide to FORGIVENESS :

The *FIRST* step : RESOLVE : I *WILL* forgive.

The *SECOND* step : RELEASE : I FORGIVE

The *THIRD* step : REPEAT : I *HAVE* forgiven

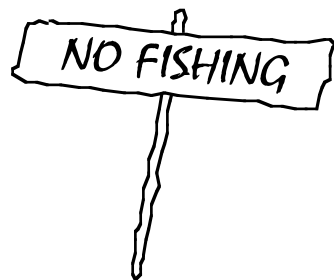
– and when you're tempted to rake it up again –

STOP and remember : they've gone !

STORY 1

Always forgiveness

This is a true story about how God helped a minister to help a young mother.



"... both my small pebble and your large rock went to the bottom ... The only difference was the sound and the ripple. But they are both hidden from us now. So it is with forgiveness. Everyone needs the forgiveness of Jesus Christ. The blood of Jesus cures all sins, big and small."

STOP and remember : they've gone !



God is longing for us to come to Him seeking forgiveness for past wrongs. And once we've been forgiven we mustn't forget to leave those things with God.

Please stand for the action song

"Jesus took my burdens"

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Jesus took my burdens and
He rolled them in the sea,
Rolled them in the sea,
Rolled them in the sea.
Jesus took my burdens and He
rolled them in the sea.
Never to remember any more. | 2. Now I am so happy, as
happy as can be,
happy as can be,
happy as can be.
Now I am so happy, as happy
as can be,
Never to remember any more. |
|---|---|

Please sit.

STORY 2

The Sinful Woman

This Bible story is taken from **John Chapter 8 verses 8-11** and can be found on Page 1181 of the Church Bibles.

Jesus said, "Whichever one of you has committed no sin may throw the first stone."

Suppose Jesus really was writing names of sins on the ground; we invite you all to call out words He might have written.

*Well, then, I do not condemn you either.
Go, but do not sin again.*

STOP and remember : they've gone !



Narrator

Thank You, Lord God, that You don't condemn those who don't condemn others.

ALL

Thank You, Lord.

Please stand to sing the hymn "God forgave my sin in Jesus name."

Omitted for copyright reasons;

click for more information

STORY 3

The Awkward Aunty

“Bless her, bless her!” ... “Love her, love her” ... “Smile, smile, smile”.

STOP and remember : they've gone !

NO FISHING

Narrator Lord, help us to love and pray for those who are mean and nasty to us.

ALL Help us, Lord.

Please stand to sing the hymn “Forgive our sins”.

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Where did that come from ?

Rosamond Herklots, the author of this hymn, first had the idea of writing the hymn as she was digging up rocks in a long-neglected garden. As she dug up deeply rooted weeds that were choking out the flowers, she realized how deeply rooted resentments in her own life could destroy every Christian virtue, and all joy and peace, unless, by God's grace, she learned to forgive.

But why should I forgive ?

Fight poisons : **RaGE, aNgE, ARGuINg, SLANDeR, goSSiP, REseNtmENT, bITtErNESs, mALiCe, UnfORGivENEsS, gUiLT, HatE.**

with antidotes : *Peace, Calmness, Gentleness, Truth, Love, Forgiveness, Joy, Patience, Kindness, Self-control.*

**“I WILL forgive the past,
I WILL forgive that person who hurt me,
I WILL forgive the hurts of childhood,
I WILL forgive myself for lost opportunities,
I WILL forgive God,
I WILL forgive whatever or whoever it may be,
I TRULY WILL forgive.**

I no longer want to live in this state of unforgiveness and hurt. Dear Lord Jesus, teach me to forgive, fill me with Your grace so that I may be a forgiving and a forgiven person.”

RESOLVE : I WILL forgive. I WILL take this problem to Jesus and leave it with Him.

RELEASE : I FORGIVE.

REPEAT : keep on doing it.

We invite you now to come forward and throw a ‘pebble’ in the ‘sea’ as a symbol of repentance and the desire to be forgiving and forgiven.

Prayerfully we sing.

1. **Make me a channel of Your peace.**
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord;
And where there's doubt, true faith in You:

Chorus :

*O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

2. **Make me a channel of Your peace.**
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light;
And where there's sadness, ever joy:

Chorus.

3. **Make me a channel of Your peace.**
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all men that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Together we pray –

**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 our final 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.**

Where did that come from ?

John Newton was eleven when he went to sea with his father. Later he was impressed into service on a man-of-war, deserted, was recaptured, publicly flogged and demoted to common seaman. Finally at his own request he was exchanged into service on a slave ship. He was brutally abused, but ultimately became captain of his own slave ship.

He had long since given up any religious convictions. However, while he was attempting to steer the ship through a violent storm, he experienced what he was to refer to later as his “great deliverance.” He recorded in his journal that when all seemed lost, he exclaimed, “Lord, have mercy upon us.” Later he reflected and began to believe that God had addressed him through the storm and that grace had begun to work for him.

He decided to become a minister. He was ordained and accepted the curacy of Olney, Buckinghamshire. Newton's church became so crowded during services that it had to be enlarged.

Please remain standing for the Blessing.

Blessing

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

Those taking part :

Names omitted

Family Service dates for this year : 10 am Sept 13th, Oct 29th.

Christmas Services : Carol Service and BBQ December 10th at 5pm.
Christingle Service December 24th at 7pm.

Anyone wishing to take part in these services please phone ●●●●●●
(●●●●) at least two weeks before the service.

The Home Group that meets here in the church on the second Sunday of each month at 11am is studying Philip Yancey's book "What's so Amazing About Grace". This study also covers the topic of forgiveness, all are welcome to join us. Crèche available for children. Phone ●●●●●● for more details.

Kids' Club for Primary School children meets in the Hall 3:15pm – 4:30pm each Tuesday during term time. All children are welcome.

Sources :
John Newton : http://www.anointedlinks.com/amazing_grace.html
Rosamond Herklots : http://www.calvin.edu/worship/resources/forgive/forgive_srvc.php