



Worship at home' Sunday June 16th 2024



We continue to consider our ongoing experience of the Spirit of God in our world, found in the ordinary things of life. If you can, sit where you are able to see a tree or shrub out a window.

Opening from Psalm 20

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
sovereign of all that is:

we praise you and worship you.

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus Christ,
anointed and blessed,
loving Saviour of the world:

we praise you and worship you.

Blessed are you, eternal Spirit,
gracious source of light and life,
and breath of God among us.

We praise you and worship you

***Source of life, Word of life, Breath of life,
for ever and ever.***

For use in worship, with acknowledgement.

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**If you can, sit where you can see
a tree or plant.**

**Reflect on the seed from which
this plant might have grown.**

**Contrast the smallness of its
seed to the size of the plant now.**

**Think about your own life...
when have small, ordinary
moments grown into
unexpected opportunities?**

Mark 4:26-34

Jesus went on to say, "The Kingdom of God is like this. A man scatters seed in his field. He sleeps at night, is up and about during the day, and all the while the seeds are sprouting and growing. Yet he does not know how it happens. The soil itself makes the plants grow and bear fruit; first the tender stalk appears, then the head, and finally the head full of grain. When the grain is ripe, the man starts cutting it with his sickle, because harvest time has come.

"What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like?" asked Jesus. "What parable shall we use to explain it?

It is like this. A man takes a mustard seed, the smallest seed in the world, and plants it in the ground. After a while it grows up and becomes the biggest of all plants. It puts out such large branches that the birds come and make their nests in its shade." Jesus preached his message to the people, using many other parables like these; he told them as much as they could understand. He would not speak to them without using parables, but when he was alone with his disciples, he would explain everything to them.

Good News Bible



One apple usually contains at least 5 seeds. If each seed is planted and grows into an apple tree, which then in turn produces around 200 apples a year, for 50 years, we can imagine that from one apple seed might come thousands of apples... each of which might then produce thousands more apples... **from little things, big things grow.** You may remember the protest song of this name recorded by Paul Kelly in 1991, based on the story of the First Peoples' struggle for land rights and reconciliation. The original protest led to the Commonwealth Aboriginal Land Rights Act being changed in order to make a difference in the lives of indigenous people all over Australia... **from little things, big things grow.**

We may feel insignificant, inadequate, ill-equipped, unimportant.
However, God can use who we are and the little that we bring to
bear great fruit... often unanticipated and unexpected, and
sometimes unrecognised, at least by us.

When we follow God's ways,
who we are and what we bring are enough.

When we follow God's ways,
God is found in the ordinary and the unexpected.

When we follow God's ways,
we find ourselves living in God's kingdom,
blessed and empowered in ways
we might never imagine.

When we follow God's ways,
from little things, big things grow.

Faith in the Ordinary

It takes little faith to see the sacred in the extraordinary.
To have faith the sacred is in the ordinary, though,
takes courage to believe the mundane can be enough;
that grace can emerge
even through the dull,
the slightly disappointing,
the not quite right,
not quite as we intended,
not really what we hoped;
the clumsy, the awkward, and the imperfect.

Let your act of faith be
to let what you do
be enough.

Let what you do be enough...

~ Cheryl Lawrie

<http://holdthisspace.org.au/>

**From little things, big things
grow... but we have to plant the
seed, then water and tend to it.**



<https://www.evidenceinvestor.com/>

**How do you water and tend to your faith,
so that God can use your 'ordinariness' to bring forth fruit?**

Our small difference

We may not be able
to confront queens,
or challenge presidents;
We may not have the capacity
to divert resources,
or uplift communities;
We may not have the voice
to silence the noise of war,
or the words to negotiate peace between armies;
But, as we follow you, O Christ, we are able to do something.



And so, we pray that you would inspire us
to commit to and act on the small difference we can make:
May we bring peace
through small acts of gentleness and reconciliation;
May we bring wealth
through small contributions and collaborations;
May we bring safety
through small acts of consideration and acceptance;
May we bring wholeness
through small acts of care and service.

And in the small ways, O God,
may our small difference make a big contribution
to your saving work in our world. Amen.

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Closing

Almighty God,
to you belong the mysteries of the universe.
You transform shepherds into kings,
the smallest seeds into magnificent trees,
and hardened hearts into loving ones.
Bless us with your life-giving Spirit,
re-create us in your image,
and shape us to your purposes,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

