



Gilcomston Church

Sunday 4 August

...that they too may now receive mercy...
Romans 11:31

Morning Service

The Good Way

History, mystery and the miracle of mercy

Romans 11:1-36

Rev Jerry Middleton

**Lord, I come before Your throne of grace;
I find rest in Your presence,
and fullness of joy.**

**In worship and wonder I behold Your face,
singing what a faithful God have I.**

**What a faithful God have I,
what a faithful God.**

**What a faithful God have I,
faithful in ev'ry way.**

**Lord of mercy, You have heard my cry;
through the storm You're the beacon,
my song in the night.**

**In the shelter of Your wings,
hear my heart's reply,
singing what a faithful God have I.**

**What a faithful God have I,
what a faithful God.**

**What a faithful God have I,
faithful in ev'ry way.**

**Lord all sov'reign,
granting peace from heav'n,
let me comfort those who suffer
with the comfort You have giv'n.
I will tell of Your great love
for as long as I live,
singing what a faithful God have I.**

**What a faithful God have I,
what a faithful God.
What a faithful God have I,
faithful in ev'ry way.**

Robert & Dawn Critchley

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Prayer

Romans 11.25-32

²⁵ I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, ²⁶ and in this way all Israel will be saved.

Romans 11.25-32

As it is written:

**“The deliverer will come from
Zion;**

**he will turn godlessness
away from Jacob.**

**²⁷ And this is my covenant with
them**

**when I take away their
sins.”**

Romans 11.25-32

²⁸ As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, ²⁹ for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

³⁰ Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience,

Romans 11.25-32

³¹ so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. ³² For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

Children's Talk

Oh, God He always keeps His promises.

**He said the sons of Abraham
would be more than the grains of sand.**

**And so, His family grew
underneath the Pharaoh's rule.**

Oh, God He always keeps His promises.

**He said the blood upon the door
would keep the Israelites secure.**

**And so, He stayed His hand
and led them to the Promised Land.**

**Our God is good and true,
He cannot lie to me and you.
We can be sure of this:
God always keeps His promises.**

Oh, God He always keeps His promises.

**He gave us laws to be obeyed
and we broke every one He made.**

**But when we ran from Him
God said He'd take care of our sin.**

**Our God is good and true,
He cannot lie to me and you.
We can be sure of this
God always keeps His promises.**

**Oh, God He always keeps His promises.
He said His Son would set us free
through His death at Calvary.
He suffered in our place
and then He rose up from the grave.**

**Our God is good and true,
He cannot lie to me and you.
We can be sure of this,
God always keeps His promises.**

Bob Kauflin / Jonathan W Althoff

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Prayer

○ how the grace of God amazes me!

**It loosed me from my bonds
and set me free!**

What made it happen so?

**His own will, this much I know,
set me, as now I show, at liberty.**

**Not for my righteousness, for I have none,
but for His mercy's sake, Jesus, God's Son,
suffered on Calvary's tree;
crucified with thieves was He;
great was His grace to me,
His wayward one.**

**And when I think of how, at Calvary,
He bore sin's penalty instead of me,
amazed, I wonder why
He, the sinless One, should die
for one so vile as I; my Saviour He!**

**○ how the grace of God amazes me!
It loosed me from my bonds
and set me free!
What made it happen so?
His own will, this much I know,
set me, as now I show, at liberty.**

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the good way

Romans 11.1-36

Romans 11.1-36

I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. ² God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel:

Romans 11.1-36

³ “Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me”? ⁴ And what was God’s answer to him? “I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” ⁵ So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace.

Romans 11.1-36

6 And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

7 What then? What the people of Israel sought so earnestly they did not obtain. The elect among them did, but the others were hardened,

Romans 11.1-36

⁸ as it is written:

**“God gave them a spirit of stupor,
eyes that could not see
and ears that could not hear,
to this very day.”**

⁹ And David says:

**“May their table become a
snare and a trap,
a stumbling block and a
retribution for them.**

Romans 11.1-36

¹⁰ May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent forever.”

¹¹ Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.

Romans 11.1-36

But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring!

¹³ I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry ¹⁴ in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them.

Romans 11.1-36

15 For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? 16 If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.

Romans 11.1-36

¹⁷ If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, ¹⁸ do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.

Romans 11.1-36

¹⁹ You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.” ²⁰ Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.

Romans 11.1-36

²² Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. ²³ And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.

Romans 11.1-36

²⁴ After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!

Romans 11.1-36

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Romans 11.1-36

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Romans 11.1-36

33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

**How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!**

34 “Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?”

Romans 11.1-36

**35 “Who has ever given to
God,
that God should repay
them?”**

**36 For from him and through
him and for him are all things.
To him be the glory forever!
Amen.**

Prayer

**God of grace, amazing wonder,
irresistible and free.**

Oh, the miracle of mercy;

Jesus reaches down to me.

God of grace, I stand in wonder,

as my God restores my soul:

His own blood has paid my ransom;

awesome cost to make me whole.

**God of grace who loved and knew me
long before the world began;
sent my Saviour down from heaven:
perfect God and perfect man.
God of grace, I trust in Jesus,
I'm accepted as His own.
Ev'ry day new grace sustains me,
as I lean on Him alone.**

**God of grace, I stand astounded,
cleansed, forgiven and secure.
All my fears are now confounded
and my hope is ever sure.
God of grace, now crowned in glory,
where one day I'll see Your face;
and forever I'll adore You
in Your everlasting grace.**

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**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all.
Amen.**

Evening Service

**Shaping The Future
Called to the kingdom
1 Samuel 9:18 – 10:9
Rev Jerry Middleton**

**Christ the eternal Lord
whose promise here we claim,
whose gifts of grace are freely poured
on all who name Your name;
with thankfulness and praise
we stand before Your throne,
intent to serve You all our days
and make Your glory known.**

**Christ the unchanging word
to every passing age,
whose timeless teachings still are heard
set forth on scripture's page;
transform our thought and mind,
enlighten all who read,
within Your word by faith to find
the bread of life indeed.**

**Christ the redeeming Son
who shares our human birth,
and by His death salvation won
for every child of earth;
inspire our hearts, we pray,
to tell Your love abroad,
that all may honour Christ today
and follow Him as Lord.**

**Christ the unfading light
of everlasting day,
our morning star in splendour bright,
the life, the truth, the way;
that light of truth You give
to servants as to friends,
Your way to walk, Your life to live,
till earth's brief journey ends.**

**Christ the ascended King
exalted high above,
whose praise unending ages sing,
whom yet unseen we love;
when mortal life is past
Your voice from heaven's throne
shall call Your children home at last
to know as we are known.**

Timothy Dudley-Smith © Author

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Prayer

1 Samuel 9. 18-10.9

18 Saul approached Samuel in the gateway and asked, "Would you please tell me where the seer's house is?"

19 "I am the seer," Samuel replied. "Go up ahead of me to the high place, for today you are to eat with me, and in the morning I will send you on your way and will tell you all that is in your heart."

1 Samuel 9. 18-10.9

20 As for the donkeys you lost three days ago, do not worry about them; they have been found. And to whom is all the desire of Israel turned, if not to you and your whole family line?"

1 Samuel 9. 18-10.9

21 Saul answered, “But am I not a Benjamite, from the smallest tribe of Israel, and is not my clan the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why do you say such a thing to me?”

1 Samuel 9. 18-10.9

²² Then Samuel brought Saul and his servant into the hall and seated them at the head of those who were invited—about thirty in number. ²³ Samuel said to the cook, “Bring the piece of meat I gave you, the one I told you to lay aside.”

1 Samuel 9. 18-10.9

24 So the cook took up the thigh with what was on it and set it in front of Saul. Samuel said, "Here is what has been kept for you. Eat, because it was set aside for you for this occasion from the time I said, 'I have invited guests.'" And Saul dined with Samuel that day.

1 Samuel 9. 18-10.9

²⁵ After they came down from the high place to the town, Samuel talked with Saul on the roof of his house. ²⁶ They rose about daybreak, and Samuel called to Saul on the roof, "Get ready, and I will send you on your way." When Saul got ready, he and Samuel went outside together.

1 Samuel 9. 18-10.9

²⁷ As they were going down to the edge of the town, Samuel said to Saul, “Tell the servant to go on ahead of us”—and the servant did so—“but you stay here for a while, so that I may give you a message from God.”

1 Samuel 9. 18-10.9

10 Then Samuel took a flask of olive oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, "Has not the LORD anointed you ruler over his inheritance? 2 When you leave me today, you will meet two men near Rachel's tomb, at Zelzah on the border of Benjamin. They will say to you,

1 Samuel 9. 18-10.9

'The donkeys you set out to look for have been found. And now your father has stopped thinking about them and is worried about you. He is asking, "What shall I do about my son?"'

1 Samuel 9. 18-10.9

3 “Then you will go on from there until you reach the great tree of Tabor. Three men going up to worship God at Bethel will meet you there. One will be carrying three young goats, another three loaves of bread, and another a skin of wine.

1 Samuel 9. 18-10.9

⁴ They will greet you and offer you two loaves of bread, which you will accept from them.

⁵ “After that you will go to Gibeah of God, where there is a Philistine outpost.

1 Samuel 9. 18-10.9

**As you approach the town,
you will meet a procession
of prophets coming down
from the high place with
lyres, timbrels, pipes and
harps being played before
them, and they will be
prophesying.**

1 Samuel 9. 18-10.9

⁶ The Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person. ⁷ Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you.

1 Samuel 9. 18-10.9

8 “Go down ahead of me to Gilgal. I will surely come down to you to sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, but you must wait seven days until I come to you and tell you what you are to do.”

1 Samuel 9. 18-10.9

9 As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul's heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day.





Called to the kingdom

shaping the future

1 Samuel 9.¹⁸-10.⁹

**May the mind of Christ my Saviour
live in me from day to day,
by His love and power controlling
all I do or say.**

**May the word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through His power.**

**May the peace of God my Father
rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.**

**May the love of Jesus fill me,
as the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
this is victory.**

**May I run the race before me,
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking all the while to Jesus,
as I onward go.**

**May His beauty rest upon me
as I seek the lost to win,
and may they forget the servant
seeing only Him.**

**Katie Barclay Wilkinson 1859-1928
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Communion

**Hear the call of the kingdom,
lift your eyes to the King,
let His song rise within you
as a fragrant offering
of how God rich in mercy
came in Christ to redeem
all who trust in His unfailing grace.**

**Hear the call of the Kingdom
to be children of light,
with the mercy of heaven,
the humility of Christ,
walking justly before Him,
loving all that is right,
that the life of Christ may shine through us.**

**King of Heaven we will answer the call,
we will follow bringing hope to the world.**

**Filled with passion,
filled with power to proclaim
salvation in Jesus' name.**

**Hear the call of the Kingdom
to reach out to the lost
with the Father's compassion
in the wonder of the cross,
bringing peace and forgiveness
and a hope yet to come,
let the nations put their trust in Him.**

**King of Heaven we will answer the call,
we will follow bringing hope to the world.**

**Filled with passion,
filled with power to proclaim
salvation in Jesus' name.**

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

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**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all.
Amen.**