

**OT: Deuteronomy 6.1-9**  
**NT: Romans 7.7-end**

If you're an ordained minister who doesn't suit green, the next six months are going to be hellish for you. You're just not going to look your best on most Sunday mornings between now and the end of November. The Church has just completed six months of seasons and festivals – Advent and Christmas quickly followed by Lent and Eastertide. And now before us stretches this lengthy period of Ordinary time.

With the exception of one or two major feasts, we're just going to trot along with the everyday.

Surely this is how most of us live. We will have the occasional celebration, the, hopefully infrequent, times of sorrow and distress. But most of us get up and get on with life day by day. Taking pleasure in the little things, being grateful for our achievements, content in the relationships with all those around us, be it at work or at home. A good tune can only have so many top notes and low sections else it might become tedious to listen to and I would imagine difficult to sing.

Henry David Thoreau said that *The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation*. I would argue that as believers in the one true God, we lead lives of quiet contentment and expectation.

In this evening's reading from Deuteronomy, Moses teaches the people

*Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

In other words, the knowledge of the love of God is central to our lives, to all that we do.

It is not something only for church, for celebrations, for difficult times.

It should be fixed to our very selves and to our homes so that we never forget it.

Because God is concerned with every aspect of our lives, nothing about us is too trivial for him to care about. He is there with us, day in and day out, when we rise, in our work, in our homes and as we sleep, watching over the ordinary as well as the extraordinary.

Easter Day here was a day of great celebration with standing room only. Today was just an ordinary Sunday, the first after Trinity but God was present this morning no less than he was at Easter. Today we were able to hear the word of God the Father, to receive the sacrament of the Son in Holy Communion, to be blessed by the grace of the Spirit. And to share in the fellowship of the Holy Trinity. True for today and every Sunday. We may not always feel like coming to church but it is in that faithful commitment of week by week that our seemingly ordinary faith turns into something extraordinary so that, just Moses directed the Israelites, our love for God becomes subsumed into our very being. It becomes the essence of who we are. It begins to transform us so that the kingdom of God is among us. And like Elijah in the cave, it's not in the roaring wind or the devastating hurricane or the blazing fire but it is in the sheer silence that we will find God and hear his word for us.

So while we've done penance and rejoiced in the seasons and the festivals, let's keep calm and make the most of wearing green as we listen for the still, small voice of God in Ordinary Time.

Amen.

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