



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Resource Centre

Always with us

Children's Story

Cycle A, Trinity Sunday, May 18, 2008

Title: Always with us.
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Floradale, ON
Theme: When Jesus is with us we
can find the courage to do
things that scare us.
Text: Matthew 28: 16-20

Wondering Questions:

- I wonder why Megan was afraid of singing in the nursing home.
- I wonder what ways of sharing God's love frighten us.
- I wonder at all the ways God's love can help us be brave and share that love with others.

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Gathering Activity:

Welcome the children as they come forward and engage them in some informal conversation about scary activities. Feel free to share things that used to, or still frighten you. As you show them today's text from Matthew in your Bible, tell them that it includes the wonderful promise from Jesus, that he is always with us, and that this can give us the courage to do things that scare us. Encourage them to settle into the awareness of Jesus being right there with you by imagining themselves on Jesus' lap. Imagine that Jesus has decided to tell them a story to help them understand how Jesus helps us do scary things. Allow a holy expectancy to settle on you and your listeners before beginning the story.

Story:

Megan's ears perked up as she overheard her mother say into the telephone, "I'm sure Megan would be happy to sing." She was very curious to

know who her mother was talking to and started dancing around the kitchen. Singing was one of her favourite activities. "Who was that?" asked Megan, as soon as her mother hung up the telephone. "It was Pastor Bill," said her mother. "He asked if you could sing at the nursing home when he leads the service there next week."

Megan stopped dead. "The nursing home! I hate going there!" Megan was almost in tears as she flopped herself into a chair.

Megan's mother sat down beside her. "Megan, what's wrong? You love to sing and the people there would love to hear you sing some of your favourite worship songs. Why don't you want to sing for them?"

Megan looked at her mother. "The people there scare me," she finally said, quietly. "There's a lady who doesn't have any teeth who has a really scary laugh. I'm afraid she's going to grab me and do something weird!"

"You don't need to be afraid of people because they are old," her mother said quietly. "That lady is probably lonely, but I will stay beside you so you won't get hurt. Jesus reached out to lonely people all the time and will be there with us, too, you know."

"Yes, I know, and I like to sing, but I'm still scared."

"It's okay to be scared," said her mother, "but it's not okay to let that fear keep you from reaching out to lonely people and sharing God's love with them."

When Megan agreed to give it a try her mother gave her an encouraging hug. The next Tuesday, Megan and her mother met Pastor Bill on the sidewalk outside the nursing home. "Let's sit down on this bench and pray before we go in," said Pastor Bill. As Megan sat down and closed her eyes, she felt the warm sun and the soft breeze blowing across her face. She felt the nearness of Jesus as Pastor Bill prayed for Jesus to be with them and bless the nursing home residents through their service that morning. As he prayed that they would be able to share God's love, Megan felt the warmth and courage of God's love growing in her heart.

Megan walked bravely into the nursing home, happily holding the hands of her mother and Pastor Bill. When it was time to sing her song she looked into the eyes of the residents instead of at their wheelchairs or twisted hands, and noticed that their eyes didn't look scary at all.

After the service Megan said, "Thank-you for praying with us and helping me not be scared, Pastor Bill." He tousled her hair and said, "Oh you're welcome, Megan. I always do that before I lead a service. It helps me remember that Jesus is with us, too. It is so good to know that Jesus has promised to always be with us, even till the end of time. And now, I think it's time for us to go out for an ice cream cone and celebrate that we were able to share that with others today."

Prayer:

Thank you, Jesus, for being with us and sharing your love with us. Thank you for helping Megan be brave and loving instead of being scared to share your love. Please help us know you are with us and help us share your love bravely, too. Amen.