

Reflection for Tuesday 16th March

I was speaking to the daughter, whose Mother had died. All Funerals are arranged over the telephone or by email, in these Covid-19 times. In spite of the limitation of not being able to meet, it's vitally important we ensure this very precious loved one can be appreciated in every way that **IS** possible.

The daughter said that whenever she used to visit her Mum, she'd have this song playing, 'My Forever Friend'. Although she didn't know it herself.....she'd like it included in the Service, in loving memory of her Mum.

So, with the wonders of Google, I found the track by Charlie Landsborough, which I'd never heard before either. I was so pleased to find that it's a Christian track and the 'Forever Friend' is Jesus Christ himself. I decided to read the words through in the Service, before we listened to the song, to emphasise the meaning.

It struck me that in a very special way, our Lord was reaching out in compassion and love to find us however and wherever we were in that Service. He does this today to each of us, in the challenge and the uncertainty and the anxiety. He is our Forever Friend. Let me share the words with you.

My Forever Friend

Everybody needs a little help sometime
No one stands alone
Makes no difference if you're just a child like me
Or a king upon a throne
For there are no exceptions
We all stand in the line
Everybody needs a friend
Let me tell you of mine.

CHORUS:

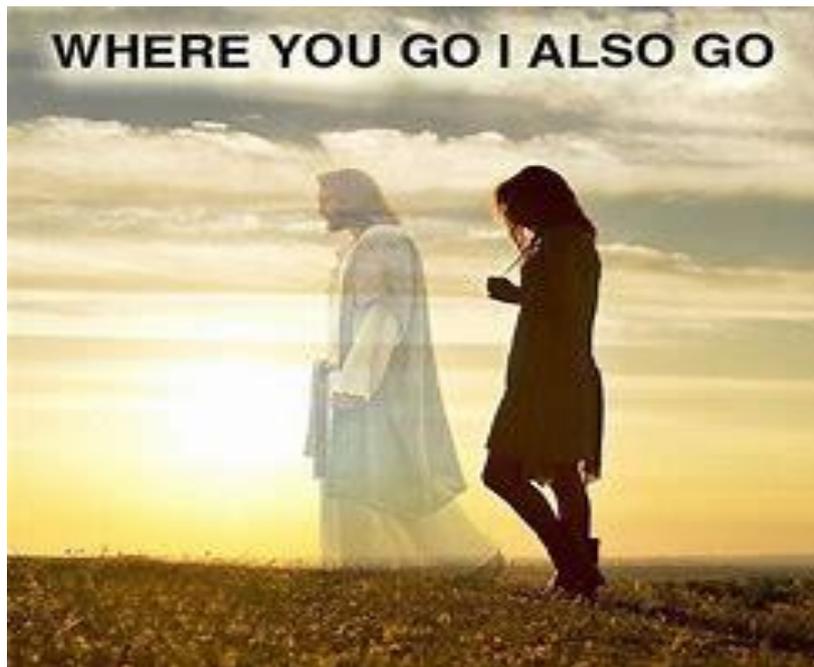
He's my forever friend
My leave-me-never friend
From darkest night to rainbow's end
He's my forever friend.

Even when I turn away, He cares for me
His love no one can shake;
Even as I walk away, He's by my side
With every breath I take;
And sometimes I forget Him,
My halo fails to shine.
Sometimes I'm not His friend
But He is always mine

REPEAT CHORUS:

If you still don't know the one I'm talking of,
I think it's time you knew;
Long ago and far away upon a cross
My friend died for you.
So if you'd like to meet Him
And don't know what to do
Ask my friend into your heart
And He'll be your friend too.





Deuteronomy 31: 5 The Lord spoke to Moses, as he prepared to hand over leadership to Joshua:

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified ..the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

And the Apostle Paul wrote to the people of Philippi these words of encouragement:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.....whatever you have learned or received....put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you”. (Philippians chapter 3).

When I’m holding the people in their loss, I realise how very hard it is especially in these current Covid times, but if we can keep saying these words of scripture, the peace that passes all understanding will descend and keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and the love of God.

May you sense God reminding you today that He, that Jesus Christ the living Lord, is your Forever, ‘leave-me-never’ friend. **Amen.**