

# The City Church, New York

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession – Sunday August 13, 2006

C. S. Lewis and his brother Warnie saw the Walt Disney movie, "Bambi" on this day in 1948. They liked it. Elaborating on Paul's words, Lewis said: "When I became a man I put away childish things, including the fear of childishness." The theme song of the movie was: "Love is a song that never ends."

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus:

You are the Love that never ends. And You call us today as You called the children of the Galilee so many years ago. No matter how old we are, You said that the Realm of our Father must be received as little children receive. So we come to You this morning as little children do, with the most basic of needs but without the means for satisfying those needs. We come as children – utterly dependent, in total trust – to receive from Your hands that for which we cannot pay. As children do, we simply reach out and take what's offered. Thank You for the love that offers the love we need. We have nothing in ourselves to match Your love, nothing to give You in exchange for Your love. Weak and unsteady, self-absorbed and taking Your love for granted, yet oblivious to all it costs You, we reach out right now, again, to receive what You freely offer. May we always do so. May we never be so self-deluded as to think we've outgrown our need of Your love.

Lord, we're old enough to know that this, our Father's beautiful world, is nonetheless a fallen world. And as we learned in scary days of childhood – not least from the Bambi film – this world is therefore dangerous. So we ask for the wisdom and courage it takes to weave our way through the thick forest homes and exposed open meadows of this wayward world. Guide us. Guard us. Guide others. Guard them.

Lord, the older we get and the faster time seems to fly, help us to realize that Your gifts of our lives are far too precious to spend on regretting a past now out of our grasp or fantasizing a future that may never come to pass. "Today is the day of salvation." Today, may we follow You. If tomorrow be granted to us, may we follow You then as well. And all along the journey, may we ever grow into Your stature, O Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord, who taught us to pray, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.