

Now is The Time

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A few weeks ago in a weekly Stewardship email I received from Luther Seminary, there was a link to a video on YouTube entitled "Christian the Lion." It is the true story of a lonely lion cub, rescued from a small and cramped cage. The two that rescued him kept the cub in their flat, loved and nurtured him, and received permission to let him run in the yard of the local church. They named the cub "Christian." Eventually Christian got too big for their flat so they brought him to Africa and introduced him to the wild - successfully. As time went by the two did not stop missing him, so they decided against the advice and warnings of all the experts, to travel 5,000 miles back to Africa to try to see Christian again. The experts all agreed this trip was foolish and dangerous. Christian had been living in the wild now, and free, for nearly a year. There wasn't any way he would remember them...but it was a risk the two were willing to take.

I like to know the end of the story first so I can relax and see how the story unfolds. For most people, however, knowing the ending ruins the plot for them. If that is the case with you, click on the link now, to see for yourself how the story unfolds, before reading on.

[Christian the Lion](#)

We connect to the story of Christian the Lion because of the enduring power of love and friendship. Our Gospel lessons these weeks are talking about the end times, and what we do in preparation for that time when Christ returns. In these uncertain times in which we live, now is the time to focus on that which endures. Paul says in I Corinthians that it is love that never ends, and in I John we read that "if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us." Now is the time to love one another and get back to the basics of friendship: friendship with God - by starting or strengthening your devotional life, or by being involved in a Bible Study. In doing so you will know the inexpressible joy of God, welcoming back those who have strayed. Now is the time to pick up the phone or write that card or email to that person you have been meaning to talk to. Are there fences to mend, amends to be made? Now is the time to dare to take that the step. There are no guarantees in the outcomes, but you may just discover the joy of the reunion and be once again sustained by the enduring power of love and forgiveness and friendship, with God in Christ and with one another. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday, dear Friends in Christ.