

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

[Exodus 17:1-7](#)

[Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16](#)

[Philippians 2:1-13](#)

[Matthew 21:23-32](#)



St. Matthew's Cathedral eNews

Christ + Compassion + Community

From the Dean

Was She Counting . . .or Praying? *"Is the Lord among us or not?" Exodus 17:7*

In the 2000 Olympics, Laura Wilkinson was interviewed after coming from eighth place to win the gold in the 30 Meter Platform Diving. Ms. Wilkerson had injured her foot several months prior to the Olympics but had qualified nonetheless. Her foot was still in pain at the time of the Olympics. Following her amazing Gold Medal finish, in reply to the question, "How could you come from so far behind to win this?" she said, "All is possible through Jesus Christ." The interviewer let it pass and again Laura affirmed that her diving was to the glory of God.

What an interesting story it could have been to explore how Laura's faith contributed to her performance. Showing her at the edge of the platform preparing to dive it could be seen that her lips were moving. Was she talking to her self? "Oh no," the commentator remarked, "She is counting to steady her concentration." Or was she praying?"

It is interesting that this reporter chose not to pursue the issues of faith when she proffered them. Often the media does not go there, because our culture will not allow it.

The story of the Old Testament is the story of God's Mighty Acts. Theologians call this seeing of God's hand at work in the larger movement of life "salvation history." As people of faith we see God's hand at work in so many places and events and in what others might call "happenstance." We call it Providence.

Have we got anything to offer in the crises that occur in people's lives? What do we say? And what do we do, out there on the end of the diving board with all the world watching?

"Is the Lord among us or not?"