

The hit movie *Barbie*, p the story of the popular doll created in the 1950's which went on to become a formative part of many a young girl's life. Beautiful and well-dressed, the allure of the plastic-perfect Barbie, and the Barbie universe, is that it is limitless. Expressive of every child's imagination — nothing for Barbie is impossible and everything in her world is good; positive, and as it should be.

From the dream house to the convertible, to the hair and clothes, Barbie represents all that a girl might want to be when they grow up: a girlfriend, a teacher, a doctor, a chef, a gymnast, or even (hold it up) a priest! Popular, attractive, smart, and friendly, the Barbie doll has inspired, empowered, and in some way given girls permission to dream about who they will become and what they will do.

In the movie, Barbie finds herself suddenly adrift in the world of human beings. As she attempts to reconcile her past and who she has been, she commences a journey of self discovery. The problem is that the Barbie universe is imaginary. In it one is invited to pretend and to create a world that on the surface may seem easy, desirable and amazing, but which upon closer look, is missing something.

As Barbie begins to question her life and who she is, she ultimately asks the very existential question: *What was I made for?*

It is an important question, and one that we all ponder at some time in our lives. What *were* we made for? What is our purpose? How are we to live, and what are we to do with our lives? As much as we might wish to avoid pain, suffering or struggle, we know that the richness and fullness of life is to be found nestled in the midst of both joy and sorrow, ease and difficulty, — in the midst of death and life. It is in these spaces that we find meaning and come to discover what we are made for.

Those who remained after Jesus' death: his mother, the women and the disciples must have struggled with this question. Before he died, they had come to have a good sense of who they were and what they were made for. Jesus had called them to follow, had taught them to love, had promised them eternity. When they were with him, they felt whole. As those who loved and believed in him, they had begun to sense just what they were made for.

Until the crucifixion, until he died, and their hope died with him.

The thing is, Jesus seemed so sure about who he was, and what he was made for: he called himself The Son of Man; he told them that he was the way, the truth and the Life;

he said, “I am the resurrection and the life” and he beckoned them to follow. His purpose was to reconcile humanity to God, and to offer salvation to those who would believe in Him; to bear love, healing, forgiveness and to be the path to salvation.

We can imagine that in the face of his death, and the shock of finding the tomb empty, these women found themselves doubting, afraid, and questioning. And perhaps, it is not until the moment when Jesus calls her name, Mary, and she hears it, recognizes his voice, and responds, Rabbouni, that she finally understands — that THIS is what he was made for.

Risen from the grave, the resurrected Jesus has now dispelled the fear and power that death wields over us, so that we may not only see in him the fulfillment of the scriptures and his divine calling, but so that we may muster the courage to follow him and to come to know and trust that this, this new life, is what we have been made for.

In the glorious diversity that is our human being, each of us have been gifted by our Creator with unique talents, expressions and ways of being that we are called to employ and to share with the world, in Love. Like Barbie, we may be teachers, pharmacists, chefs or priests; like Marvel superheroes, we may feel passionate about standing against injustice and caring for the poor, the hungry, the lost and alone. Whatever our vocations, however God is calling us, we can trust this: we were made for Love. Jesus, through his life, death and resurrection, has taught us and reminds us that LOVE should always be at the center of everything we do. As Presiding Bishop Michael Curry says, “If it isn’t about Love, then it isn’t about God.”

Because God sent Godself, in Jesus, into the world, we have come to know and love God. Because God sent Christ to walk among us, we have borne witness to what it is to love, and be loved. Because God gave Godself in Christ to death, the most profound act of love ever, and then raised him up in Glory, our hearts, minds, bodies and souls have been changed, transformed, moved from despair into hope, from sorrow into joy, from death into eternal life. By his resurrection, we are now free to live fully in the promise of eternal life, and to be bearers of God’s love to the world. Because, friends, This is what we were made for.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Christ is Risen!
The Lord is Risen Indeed, Alleluia, Alleluia!