

Order of Service

Welcome 'everyone' to PBUC this Lord's Day. May our gracious and awesome God bless you as you sing, pray, worship, open his word and be with each other in spirit (not face to face). If you are visiting with us via the website – a special welcome – and we hope your time with us is rewarding and enjoyable. Please click the links in [blue](#) as we progress.

We used to have a number of **Pre-service songs** that led and prepared us for the rest of the service. Here are 3 to enjoy. Just click on the link

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMY3ivdNzwE>

Majesty ('Worship His Majesty')

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jWSy18_Jv7Y

Glorious Things of thee are spoken

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izDOutb-h2Y>

Reading

Psalm 66:1-8, 16-20

Shout for joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious. Say to God, 'How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you.

All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing the praises of your name.'

Come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for mankind! He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot – come, let us rejoice in him. He rules for ever by his power, his eyes watch the nations – let not the rebellious rise up against him.

Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard; he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.

For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver....

Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue.

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer.

Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!

Opening prayer Dear God, we came into your glorious presence with the words of this psalm in our ears. We want to join the whole earth in crying out in joy, worshipping you with glad hearts and singing joyful songs. We know that you are our God; you made us and we are your people, your flock. Take us through this service with thanksgiving and praise in our hearts and minds – for your love endures forever.

Songs Let's sing out our joy.

'Great is thy faithfulness' Traditional

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTKIqmdfH5k>

Indescribable – Chris Tomlin - Modern

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-zJHgaoVa4>

Prayer of Confession: Loving Lord while there is so much to be grateful and joyful for, we also recognise the frailty and fallenness of our world and our own lives. The recent devastating drought, bush fires and now COVID 19 remind us of this every day. We were part of a world, where sin, done deliberately or in ignorance, spoils our lives and damages our world - and sadly sin separates us from you Lord. In Jesus you have come among us with a marvellous plan to save, heal, forgive and to transform us and our broken world. So we confess our own part, our waywardness in word & deed; and we look to you in repentance for mercy and forgiveness. It is in Jesus' glorious name we pray. Amen

Notices see the notes in the Pointer

Offering: Please keep setting it aside. You will receive a letter from Neil this week suggestion ways you can give. Also see the Pointer.

Prayer. Gracious God, for these and your many blessings we give you our sincere thanks. May there be used wisely and effectively in our church and wider community to extend your kingdom.

Joke Holiday in the Holy Land (a repeat from a few months ago)

"A man, who lived with wife & his mother-in-law here in Qld, thought of a romantic idea for himself and his wife – *"honey can I take you on a holiday to Europe and the Holy Land?"* He asked hopefully. But to his deep sadness his wife said, *'Yes, let's ask mum to come too'*.

With some misgivings he, his wife, and mother-in-law went on holiday. And it happened that while they were in Jerusalem his mother-in-law unexpectedly passed away of natural causes.

A day or so later he went and saw the funeral director, who said to him, *"You can have her body shipped home for \$20,000, or you can bury her here in the Holy Land for \$500"*. The husband thought about it and told the undertaker he would just have her shipped home. The man was puzzled and asked, *"Why would you spend \$20,000 to ship your mother-in-law home to Australia, when it would be wonderful to be buried here in the holy Land and you would only have to spend \$500"*.

" Oh, I just can't risk burying her here." The husband replied, "You see long ago a man died here, was buried here, and three days later he rose from the dead."

Pass the peace - at home with your family

Bible Reading 2 Acts 17:22-31 NIV

22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: 'People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship – and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

24 'The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 28 "For in him we live and move and have our being."^[a] As some of your own poets have said, "We are his offspring."^[b] 29 'Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by human design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.'

Songs:

Blessed Assurance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuyf1YQvcwY>

All Hail King Jesus. (Modern)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSi8f38kfcY>

Bible Reading 3. John 14:1-9

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You trust in God; trust also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

4 You know the way to the place where I am going.'

5 Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

6 Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'

⁸ Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.'

⁹ Jesus answered: 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"?'

Sermon – Jesus The Way, the Truth & The Life John14:1-9

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUAzLE2BUwg>

For a written version of my message see the end of this order of service

Songs

What a friend we have in Jesus – traditional

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vlv0zzKs_rY

What a friend we have in Jesus – more modern

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GJMueoN8IE>

Prayer – Praying for ourselves and others (**+ Lord's Prayer**)

Heavenly Father – there are many important matters of concern needing our prayers: the many millions across the world suffering because of COVID 19 – grieving families and many still sick – bring your comfort and healing. For all the medical workers – give your wisdom and protection. For all those in the service industries again grant them protection and patience. On a for national front Lord, guide our various levels of government as they make decision about important issues like easing restrictions. And we pray for ...

Loving God we pray for each other in our church – separated yet united. Keep us well emotionally in isolation. We pray for those in hospital or rehab recovering from surgery, & for others who are suffering from pain or injury or hardship – hear our prayers for

Personally **Lord**, for us all - help us to find the strength we need each day - to love & serve you as best we can... hear our prayers ...

Lord's Prayer. Amen

Songs

In heavenly love abiding

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SFxG0h57kk>

Good Good Father – C Tomlin - modern

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zImUxzi-p_Y

Benediction Gracious God - Send us into this coming week in your strength, with perseverance and wisdom. Point us always to the Lord Jesus in trust. May your name be honoured through our witness, service and wise living. In the power of your Spirit. Amen

Vesper: Now Unto Him

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrqoyLMc_GM

The Way, the Truth, the Life John 14:1-9

Good morning BPUC family, I hope this message is a blessing to you as we continue being apart because of the coronavirus restrictions. I know lots of you have been praying for me, the CC and for each other – that's a wonderful encouragement.

Today in this extraordinary passage Jesus offers himself to us in 3 ways:

- i. To comfort our troubled hearts by explaining his plans vv.1-3;
- ii. To answer Thomas's question about knowing the way ahead vv.4-6;
- iii. To replies to Philip's comment about seeing the Father vv.7-9

Interestingly along the way these 3 parts cover the central topics of Christianity: namely who Jesus is and his role?

I'm excited – hope you'll stay with me.

1. Stress Overcome by Trust (with New Creation Hope) vv.1-3

When my youngest son Jacob was in yr.10 at school he was invited to another boy's birthday party – a sleep over. In talking to him about the boy's family I found out that about 10 other boys were also invited.

Knowing the size of most homes on the GC I asked, 'Are you sure there'll be enough room for you all?' 'I don't know', answered Jacob, 'he says it will be fine.'

When Jacob and I turned up at this boy's address I quickly realized that it was no ordinary house. It was huge – with a gated driveway and many rooms. His father's house was a mini-mansion, a guest-house size.

The image Jesus uses in Jn 14 is much like this. He **is** going away to his father's house, yes, but he doesn't want his friends to be upset, so he speaks of 'his father's house' as having plenty of room for them.

Jesus has to give this reassurance to the disciples because they really needed it because of what has just happened in chp 13.

Just minutes before our passage Jesus said that one of the them will betray him (Judas) and one of them, Peter, will disown him 3x, and adds '*Where I'm going...you can't follow me*' Jn 13:36. Boy oh Boy

The prediction of Peter's denial would have shaken all of them. Peter didn't always have the right answers, but he was supposed to be the Rock, and his fierce loyalty to Jesus was very clear. *If Peter is going to deny Jesus, what hope was there for the rest of them?* Jesus' talk about denial and his leaving them gave them much to be disturbed about.

If I had to face a very uncertain future (like the disciples did) without Jesus to being with me I would be very upset also.

So it's no-wonder Jesus wants to reassure them (and us) in Jn 14. For these reasons Jesus begins Jn 14 by talking about *his father's house* having plenty of room for them. *Guys it's ok.*

Interestingly the only other place Jesus speaks about '*his father's house*' is when he was 12 at the Temple in Jerusalem. The **Temple** was the place, for the Jewish people, where heaven and earth met. People went to the Temple to meet God. It was a foretaste of God's presence.

Now it appears that Jesus is saying that in the new Temple = 'me in my father's house' and it's when God will transform the world – then there will be plenty of room for all his friends. = New creation language

'Don't be anxious guys', 'Yes, I'm going away, but it will be for your benefit. I won't forget or abandon you'.

He begins v.1, '*Don't let your hearts be troubled,*' ... '*You trust God – so trust me, too!*' ²*There is plenty of room to live in my father's house. If that wasn't the case, I'd have told you, wouldn't I? I'm going to get a place ready for you!*

Trust him – that's what Jesus is inviting his followers to do. Having a troubled heart is a common human experience; worrying about the future is also very human – the remedy is **trust in Jesus**. He has the future mapped out to include each of us; and he invites us to live by faith and not by sight.

To encourage them further, '*one day*', says Jesus, '*I will come back to be with you v.3. So that you will be with me and know **the way** forward.'*

2. Thomas' Question – Which way? Vv.4-6 Thomas, in character, is pragmatically grumpy v.5. '*Actually, Master,*' said Thomas to Jesus, '*we don't know where you're going, so how can we know the way?*' Thomas, thinking in a worldly way says, in effect, '*If we don't know the address, Jesus, how are we supposed to know **the way** there?*

Jesus' answer to Thomas is one of the most well known and core verses in all Scripture: V.6 '*I am the way, the truth and the life*', replied Jesus. '*Nobody comes to the father except through me*'. (**Your memory verse**)

While this saying on its own may sound very egocentric or arrogant. And many have accused Jesus of that. But we have to take into account the self-giving life of Jesus. He has just washed the disciples' feet and told them to follow his example. And he is on his way in just a few hours to give his life as the shepherd for his sheep – to an old rugged cross.

Is **this** Jesus egotistical or arrogant? Hardly – He is the opposite – a kind, loving Saviour who gives rather than takes. And when we Christians start serving others like Jesus did – then the world will take notice and we will be able to share v.6 with them. Jesus is the way to find God.

We also find **the way** into the future in following Jesus; we find what **truth** is in following Jesus and we find what abundant **life** is in following Jesus. As the writer to the Hebrews says 12:1-2, *let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.*

In **a marathon** the runners have to run with great perseverance and an eye to the finish line. So it is with us – following Jesus takes perseverance and stamina. But here's the beautiful thing, in the race of life – we Christians know the end –(in *our father's house*) and we know the steps along the way because Jesus has run ahead of us (as the pioneer and champion of faith, the way the truth and the life). Our responsibility is to fix our eyes on him and not let troubles distract us.

3. Philip's Request: Show us the Father vv.7-9. Jesus goes on in v.7 to reveal more of his role. No one can come to the Father except through a relationship with Jesus. He then adds *'If you had known me, you would have known my father. From now on you do know him! For you have seen him.'* Again with the riddles.

Another disciple shares their confusion – this time it's Philip. We don't know much about Philip but here he asks what is on everyone's minds, *'Jesus what do you mean, 'we have seen the father?'* They were all confused (as we are today). So in v.8 Philip says, *'Just show us the father, then, Master, and that'll be good enough for us!'*

Here again Jesus' answer is one of the most stunning verses in the whole NT. Jesus says to Philip v.9, *How can you say, "Show us the father"?* ... *'Anyone who has seen me has seen the father!* The old saying *'like Father, like Son'* works beautifully for Jesus and his Father.

Can I digress a bit – with a mini 'theology of the Trinity'.

This mystery has baffled the best minds for centuries. How do we define the relationship between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (who comes into the picture in vv.16-17)?

Here again the key is our experience of God. When the Gospel is preached it usually centres on Jesus – on his life, death and resurrection for our salvation. We are called to believe in him as in John 3:16.

By faith we ask Jesus to be our Lord & Saviour, forgive us and give us new life. And as soon as we do that we are introduced by Jesus to his Father, God the Creator of the world, who loves us and wants to hear our prayers. And at the same moment - we are also indwelt by the Holy Spirit who is both the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Jesus. 1=1x1x1.

Our experience of the living God is trinitarian as in the whole of the NT.

Back to the disciples and Jesus in the upper room. Despite all the evidence to the contrary in what is about to happen to Jesus, he wants to reassure them that God remains the loving, just, sovereign Father whom Jesus has revealed, and Jesus remains his Son, beloved by God, and the disciples themselves remain loved by the Father. -That's you and I

Wow. Add this to v.6 and we have the core truth of Christianity. Jesus is Emmanuel 'God with us'; he is the word of God 'made flesh', so that God the Father could be known and seen (metaphorically).

John 1:18 says *'No one has ever seen God. But God the only Son, who is intimately close to the father, he has come to make him known.'*

Application today. This passage is both delightfully simple and powerfully deep. Here's a quick overview for us today - V.1 *'Don't let your hearts be troubled,' Jesus says. 'You trust God – so trust me, too! For 'I am the way, the truth and the life! And if you want to know and see what God is like – come follow me and I'll show you for I and my Father are one. Brilliant*

Are you stressed, troubled in heart, uncertain about the future or about what God is doing - Jesus helps us face stress with an invitation to trust him, enables us to face future uncertainty with the promise 'I am the way'; and allows us to face the question 'what is God like?' by reminding us 'anyone who has seen me has seen the Father'

Fix your eyes on Jesus for abundant life. Amen.