



Anglican Parish of Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal, Areegra, Minyip, Hopetoun, Brim

Fifth Sunday of Easter
10th May 2020

Hello everyone! I hope that I find you well.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled," says Jesus, "You believe in God: believe also in me." Simple. Right?

Because we are followers of Jesus, and because we are sustained by God's Holy Spirit, we can and are expected to do the things that Jesus did! Simple - right?

Why have we rendered ourselves impotent to 'doing what Jesus did' and 'saying what Jesus said', and 'transforming people's lives' just as Jesus did in the dust and dirt of Galilee and beyond? It is important to bring peace to our own hearts! That is important. Jesus 'invites' us (to use a gentle term) to help bring peace to another's heart, and another, and another ... and not stop. A more forceful expression - is that Jesus **COMMANDS** us to do the same. We are to witness to the way God works in our life. We are to witness to how God transforms our life. We are to live in such a way that dissolves fear, despair and doubt. Trust!

The good thing is that we don't have to rely on our own strength and our own insight and our own resources ... as Jesus says, "I AM the way, I AM the truth, I AM the life." And no-one gets turned away.

I think that the COVID-19 experience seems to have helped people re-evaluate what is essential and valuable and important in their lives. That's the link with the pilgrimage rhetoric I have been talking about in recent weeks - we've all been on 'pilgrimage' at home! Not our choice, but essentially most people I know have chosen to 'enter the unknown' trusting someone we wouldn't normally trust, trust the wider community to act for the common good - which seems to have been successful on the whole, and trust that 'this time will pass' and we will be a little stronger and more resilient and less complicated than when the pandemic began.

What have you identified in your life that is essential?

What does 'trust in God' look like for you? How would you explain it to someone if they asked you about it?

With every blessing, Rev James

Easter Season Quiz III:

1. What does Jesus cook for breakfast in John 21?
2. Who were the first disciples called by Jesus?
3. How many books are in the Holy Bible?
4. Who am I?
 - I was born 634BC. I was king of Babylon 605-562BC.
 - I was the longest-reigning and most powerful monarch of the Neo-Babylonian Empire - Chaldean dynasty.
 - I was an enemy of the Jewish people.
 - I tried to incinerate Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
 - Which book of the Bible am I found? [Answers next week]

Last week's answers - Quiz II:

- 1). Seven: "I am..." 'the bread of life' (Jn 6); 'the light of the world' (Jn 8); 'the gate' (Jn 10); 'the Good Shepherd' (Jn 10); 'the Resurrection and the life' (Jn 11); 'the way, the truth & the life' (Jn 14); 'the true vine' (Jn 15). 2). Correct! 3). Bethany: the home of Mary, Martha & Lazarus. 4). Cornelius the Centurion: Acts 10.



Prayer in the Parish

In the Parish & Beyond: +Garry; all in our Deanery; Parish Council meeting (Tuesday night); David & Nola Mollison; those who do not have access to medicine and safe water.

Community: Front-line health care workers; teachers & students; farmers and their families; truck drivers; unemployed.

Years Mind: Jeffrey Kay, Phyllis Nuske, Dorothy Smith, Charles O'Bryan, John Cowan, Lynne Kay

EASTER 5 youtube from Rev:

"An Invitation"

https://youtu.be/lj3PA_tjPwk

**Is there anything that you need?
Contact Rev, our Wardens or your
neighbour. No shame required!**

Bishop Garry's youtube message:

Easter 4 – *Of Shepherds and Sheep*
<https://youtu.be/1ham2y2LKN4>

During the COVID-19 restrictions - Rev will be in Christ Church every Sunday for prayer and praise at 9.30am. Please join him in solidarity at home if you are able – covering the parish in prayer and thought.

The devil was heard to be gloating that all the church doors were shut, and the faithful were not able to meet to praise God. God was quick to reply, "I've started a church in every house instead!"

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A Simple Service – for Fifth Sunday of Easter

Hymn: How Sweet the Name

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms the troubled breast,
is manna to the hungry soul
and to the weary rest.

Dear name! the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding place,
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace:

Jesus, my shepherd, brother, friend,
my prophet, priest and king,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see you as you are
I'll praise you as I ought.

John Newton

Reflection:

- a) *What was your most surprising moment this week?*
- b) *What would you like to give thanks to God for this week?*

In a moment of silence – offer these thoughts to God through the Holy Spirit.

O Lord, open our lips
And our mouths shall proclaim your praise!

Leader: Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

[Matt 22; Mark 12]

Prayer of Preparation:

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings: *(I suggest one or two – the others can become the basis for your devotions throughout the week)*

Videos: +Garry and/or Rev

Reflection:

- a) What was something new for you in the readings this morning?
- b) If Jesus was sitting with you – what question would you ask him?

Prayer:

Praise. Petition. Intercession. Thanksgiving.
(or follow your own discipline.)
The Lord's Prayer.
Collect for the Day.

Blessing:

"The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace;
this day and always" Amen.
[Numbers 6:24-26]

Song: Praise With Joy *(tune; Praise My Soul)*

Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
source and end of human knowledge,
force of greatness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
power to rescue and release.

Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bounds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.

Celebrate the Spirit's treasure —
foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.

Thus the world shall yet believe, when
shown Christ's vibrant unity.

[John L. Bell 1949-and Graham Maule 1958]

TODAY'S READINGS

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading:

Acts 7:55-60

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he fell asleep.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm:

31:1-5, 17-18

**Response: *Father, I put my life in
your hands***

1. To you, Lord, have I come for
shelter:
let me never be put to shame.
O deliver me in your righteousness:

incline your ear to me and be swift
to save me. **(R)**

2. Be for me a rock of refuge, a
fortress to defend me:
for you are my high rock and my
stronghold.
Lead me and guide me for your
name's sake:
bring me out of the net that they
have secretly laid for me,
for you are my strength. **(R)**
3. Into your hands I commit my spirit:
you will redeem me, O Lord God of
truth.
All my days are in your hand:
O deliver me from the power of my
enemies and from my persecutors.
Make your face to shine upon your
servant:
and save me for your mercy's sake. **(R)**



***A reading from the first letter of
Peter***

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the emperor. Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 'He himself

bore our sins' in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; 'by his wounds you have been healed.' For 'you were like sheep going astray,' but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him and we will come to him.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

John 14:1-14

***A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to John***

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 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? 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. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.' 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"? Don't you believe

that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the

works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

This is the gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE PROPERs

Sentence: 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life,' says the Lord. 'No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Collect: Everliving God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



Greg McKeown writes;

"Everything changes when we give ourselves permission to be more selective in what we choose to do. At once, we hold the key to unlock the next level of achievement in our lives. There is tremendous freedom in learning that we can eliminate the non-essentials, that we are no longer controlled by other people's agendas, and that we get to choose. With that invincible power we can discover our highest point of contribution, not just to our lives or careers, but to the world.

What if schools eliminated busywork and replaced it with important projects that made a difference to the whole community? What if all students had time to think about their highest contribution to their future so that when they left secondary school they were not just starting the race to nowhere?

What if businesses eliminated meaningless meetings and replaced them with space for people to think and work on their most important projects? What if employees pushed back against time-wasting email chains, purposeless projects, and unproductive meetings so that they could be utilized at their highest level of contribution to their companies and in their careers?

What if society stopped telling us to buy more stuff and instead allowed us to create more space to breathe and think? What if society encouraged us to reject what has been accurately described as doing things we detest, to buy the things we don't need, with money we don't have, to impress the people we don't like?

What if we stopped being oversold the value of having more and being undersold the value of having less?

What if we stopped celebrating being busy as a measurement of importance? What if instead we celebrated how much time we had spent listening, pondering, meditating, and enjoying time with the most important people in our lives?

What if the whole world shifted from the undisciplined pursuit of more to the disciplined pursuit of less ... only better?

I have a vision of people everywhere having the courage to live a life true to themselves instead of the life others expect of them.

I have a vision of everyone - children, students, mothers, fathers, employees, managers, executives, world leaders learning to better tap into more of their intelligence, capability, resourcefulness, and initiative to live more meaningful lives. I have a vision of all these people courageously doing what they came here on this earth to do. I have a vision of starting a conversation that becomes a movement.

As poet Mary Oliver wrote: "Tell me, what is it you plan to do - with your one wild and precious life?"

Greg McKeown

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Finding the Way

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6
The puzzle is based on John 14:1-14 (NIV).



T J Y C O M T W A Y Z C P V A
A E E H I S I A U J S S R L F
H L X B U D Y R N H Y T E Y R
W R A R X H T Z A I I J P E T
T U T Z P E R H F C M X A D N
R F M E L A S R O H L W R Z P
O V J X A R T H T M B E E B X
U X R L C T O I O O A Q S L E
B K L O E S A W I W W S V V V
L C L I O F F A T H E R E O H
E Q A D V M J O I F L I R T O
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S Y I K I K N O W E M R J X S
L I N S F P I G B D T I S P E
Y J I Q E M C E N O U G H J Z

ENOUGH
THOMAS
SHOW
FATHER

WAY
LIFE
BELIEVE
FAITH

HEARTS
MIRACLES
KNOW
PLACE

TROUBLED
HOUSE
ROOMS
PREPARE

TRUST
SEEN
LIVING
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This week's menu attached /accompanied with pew sheet.