



29 MAY 2022

Welcome to worship

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy worshipping with us. A special welcome to Rev Christine Palmer and to Noah and his family and friends who are here for Noah's baptism, especially grandma and grandpa Hani and Paul.

Lectionary Readings

This week May 29, 2022

Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

Next week June 5, 2022

Acts 2:1-21 or Gen 11:1-9
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-17, (25-27)

Pentecost next Sunday

Next Sunday is Pentecost, the church's birthday. Adrian will be leading worship and has asked that people might wear red if possible.

Ukraine Appeal

Thank you to all who have already donated to the Ukraine Crisis Emergency Appeal. So far we have raised \$420. Today is the final day to donate, if you are interested, the envelopes are on the back table please place your gift in the envelope and place it in the offering. Gifts are tax-deductible, just fill in your details on the envelope and we will forward them to Act for Peace.

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies' Bible Study is on this Tuesday 31st May, 3pm in the chapel area. The topic is "Unity and Uniqueness" Ephesians 4;1-16.

HOLROYD
COMBINED CHURCHES

Pentecost Service

6pm Sunday 5th June

Hosted by Holroyd New Life Church
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“That they may all be one” - John 17:20-26

Jesus is praying to the Father. Three times he asks our Father that we would all become one as he and the Father are one. If Jesus is praying for our oneness then he is also recognizing and rejecting the boundaries and differences that divide us.

We live in a world full of divisions – male or female; rich or poor; gay or straight; Christian or Muslim, ..we could go on and on listing the boundaries that we encounter and all too often establish or promote.

For every boundary we establish there is a human being. Ultimately, boundaries and differences are not about issues. They are about real people, with names, lives, joys, sorrows, concerns, and needs just like us. I think we sometimes forget or ignore this. It is easier to deal with an issue than a real person.

Jesus does not pray for our tolerance, our getting along, or just being nice to each other. He does not even pray that our differences would be eliminated. Instead he prays for our oneness. He prays that we would be one as he and the Father are one so that our oneness would be the revelation of God’s presence to the world. Oneness in the midst of difference becomes a sacramental presence of God’s life in the world.

That does not mean, however, that we lose our identity or individuality. Jesus’ prayer for oneness is ultimately that we would be and live like God. Oneness is not about eliminating differences.

It is about love. Love is the only thing that can ever overcome division. In love there may be differences but there is no division. God’s love knows no boundaries. All are loved fully, completely, and uniquely as each needs.

For far too long we have dealt with each other through our boundaries, differences, and divisions. You can see where that has gotten us. You need only look at the world, read the newspaper, or watch the news. When we deal with others through our divisions we label, do violence, and hunker down to defend our position. There is no oneness in that.

Though Jesus is praying to the Father, you and I will, in large part, be the ones to answer Jesus’ prayer. We answer his prayer every time we choose how to love, who to love, where to love. It is time we answer Jesus’ prayer and deal with one another in love. So I wonder, who are the boundaries that await our love?

Interruptingthesilence.com Michael K Marsh