



21 MAY 2023

Welcome

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy being with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week 21 May, 2023

Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

**Next week 28 May, 2023
Pentecost**

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

**A Special Pentecost Service of
Prayer, Conversation, Communion
and Red Velvet Cupcakes:
Next Sunday May 28th.**

We will celebrate Pentecost this year with a service based on Prayer and Conversation. We will sit in table groups so that we can share in a way that normal "all look to the front" worship does not accommodate. The first Pentecost was full of surprises and the movement of the Holy Spirit. I hope and pray that our celebration of that day will also reinvigorate the movement of the Spirit amongst us as we strive to be the church, the body of Christ. - Rev Gail

Hands and Feet Update

Our new food distribution program with Hands and Feet Inc began on Wednesday with 14 people taking baskets of food. Thank you to Laurie & Sabina, Adrian & Kaye, Peter & Karen, Peter & Elizebeth, and Warren for their assistance. Next week's volunteers are: Laurie & Sabina, Karen & Peter, Adrian & Kaye, Karen and Warren. The roster is now also on the back noticeboard in the chapel.





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Jesus prays - John 17:1-11

This is a prayer of last requests. Jesus is praying, knowing that He will soon be arrested and put to death. In this moment He offers up a prayer for his followers, mindful of what they will have to endure. It's deeply personal and there are three themes we need to hear.

1. God May Be Glorified

First and foremost, Jesus prays that God will be glorified in His life and through what will soon take place. Everything that God gives to us, our talents, our time, and our treasures should be used to bring glory to God. He prays for all of us that we may also be faithful and that God would protect us so that others would come to know Christ through our message.

2. We May Have Eternal Life

Jesus prayed that we may have eternal life. He wanted us to have that assurance of reunion with God and His Son, but He also said something else about what eternal life really is. He said that eternal life is "knowing you, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." Eternal life is now. The kind of life that God wants for us doesn't start when we die. It begins now as we follow Christ and come to know the eternal God.

3. We May Be One

The blessing Jesus prays for is: That we may be one as Jesus and God are one. That's a very important distinction in the kind of unity that Jesus wants for us. He doesn't just want us to get along and not kill each other. He actually wants us to love one another selflessly the way He loves His Father and the Father loves Him.

I read somewhere that "people may not always remember what you say, but they will always remember how it made them feel." I pray that we make people feel loved, wanted, believed in, and hoped for. May we bring out the best in one another rather than the worst in each other.

As we come to the close of Jesus' prayer, we must turn our focus to our own prayers. How shall we pray? "What if we, as the church, spent less time praying about being right and more time praying about being one?" What if we spent more time praying for the grace to love those who may be difficult to love? What if we spent more time praying for opportunities to show God's love to others, whether or not we have the chance to explain it.

May God be glorified in us. May we experience eternal life in a love relationship with an eternal God. May we be one as they are one. May Christ's prayer be answered in our own.— Adrian