



17 MARCH, 2024

**The Fifth
Sunday
of Lent**



Welcome

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week 17 March, 2024

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

Next week 24 March, 2024

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will be meeting on Tuesday afternoon in the chapel at 3pm. They are starting a new study series on Contentment, and will be looking at Study 1: Our Hungry Hearts. Please see Heather S if you would like any more information.

Easter Sunday Flowers

On Easter Sunday morning, the bare cross will be transformed with fresh flowers. If you are able, please bring along some flowers from your garden. During the service we will all have a chance to bring our flowers forward to transform the cross.

Church Directory Update

We are currently updating our Pastoral Partners clusters and as part of that process, we are updating the Church Directory over the next few weeks. This is the directory which is made available to members of the congregation.

A copy of the current directory is at the back of the church if you would like to check your details. If they are correct, please initial your entry so we know it's ok.

If you are not currently in the directory and would like to be, or if your details have changed in the last few years, please fill in a form and leave it in the tray next to the lists.

Please note you do not have to be in the Directory, it's entirely voluntary.



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I want to see Jesus too

John 12: 20-33

"Sir, we would like to see Jesus" (John 12; 21)

This wish has been repeated by many across the thousands of years since Jesus was among us. There are many, still today, who wish to see Jesus.

We are told in this reading, those who first made this famous request were Greeks. They were not necessarily expecting a messiah. But they had heard of this man Jesus, and wanted to see him for themselves. But there is no record of the Greeks ever getting to see Jesus that day.

Instead, this request initiated a conversation between Jesus and his disciples about his upcoming death. And at the end of the conversation, Jesus tells his disciples that when he is lifted up, he will draw all peoples to himself. In other words, when he was crucified, then all the world, including the Greeks – will see Jesus. But only then. "Sir, we would like to see Jesus," they asked of Philip. And there are many who wish to see him still. Including I would guess, us. But if we want to see Jesus, we need to look no further than at the cross.

If we see Jesus on the cross, then we see Jesus everywhere. On humanity's darkest day, we see God's love shining brightly too. No matter the pain or the suffering or the challenges we face, we can see Jesus right there in the midst of the crisis, in the midst of us.

On the cross, Jesus sets us free. He frees us from sin and death.

But what happens after Jesus sets us free? Martin Luther answers this question in this way, "Jesus freed us from all our sins and from death, in order that we may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom and serve him in eternal righteousness."

We live to bear the fruits of the kingdom. When we follow the way of Jesus, we bear much fruit. We are invited to serve the Lord right here, right now. The image that comes to mind is one that Jesus shared in a few chapters time. In John 15, **'I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.'**

Jesus dies to plant the seed of the gospel in us all, and when we stay connected to him, we bear his fruit.

"Sir, we would like to see Jesus". If you would like to see Jesus, then look to the cross this Easter. The life-giving cross on which was hung the saviour of the world. It is there we best see Jesus. - Adrian