

ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday 15 May 2022

Doxology #709
Praise God

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn 261
Christ whose glory fills the skies

Young at Heart
Christine Bradbeer

Welcome and Notices
Session Clerk: Keith Ferres

Offering and Dedication

Hymn 138 (R)
Fairest Lord Jesus

Bible Reading: John 12:20-34
Ian Rutherford

Sermon
Jesus' time, and our time.

Prayers of Intercession
and
The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 693
Man of Sorrows! wondrous Name

Benediction



NOTICES

15 MAY 2022

Wednesday 18 May
Sunday 22 May

1.30 pm Prayer Meeting

11 am Divine Worship.

The Light for our darkness.

All Welcome!

May 30- June 2

7.30 pm Light up Whitehorse in
Prayer. Various church locations.

Whitehorse Churches Care are working together with the police to deliver care packs to people on the Community Support Register. Please let Graham know if you would like to participate in buying or packing goods, and/or Light Up Whitehorse.

For your prayers this week:

Congregational member: **Keith FERRES.**

also

Paul and Anthea (no image) are developing contacts in the Australian M community. Pray for this work and the situation in M communities worldwide.



GARDENIA ST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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GARDENIA ST.
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BLACKBURN

15 May 2022



Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth
and dies, it remains alone;
but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

-John 12:24

-John 12:24

WELCOME

Jesus' time, and our time

[John 12:20-34]

Sermon
Notes

Intro Before we step into the upper room with Jesus and his disciples (John 13) we are taking three steps through the last segment of Jesus' public ministry (John 12). Last week we noticed Mary's fragrant ointment poured forth, seemingly wasteful love. Today it's time to switch light for dark and behold the glory.

the light switch (v.22)

As a boy Jesus knew his calling. He spoke of the temple as 'my Father's house' (Luke 2:49). In his adult ministry it appears he was increasingly clear of its brevity and focal point.

Jesus had often referred to 'the hour' (2:4, 5:25, 7:6, 7:30). Always it was 'not yet'. But when Jesus heard from Philip and Andrew that 'the Greeks' wanted to meet him it is as if a switch was flicked. Now he says 'the hour has come' (12:23). Time's up.

Later in this chapter (John 12) we see this was due to his application of Israel's scriptures to himself.

idols that enslave (v.20)

The Greeks came seeking Jesus at the 'Feast'. It was Israel's Passover festival. The great celebration of redemption from slavery in Egypt more than a thousand years previously.

Over those years Israel's prophets made clear that Israel itself was in danger of succumbing to the same idolatries that drove the Egyptian dynasties; devotion to power, wealth and beauty.

Take time to assess the place these have in our lives. Remember an idol is about how loved anything might be.

The festival was their yearly reminder that they had been slaves; they were obliged to remember the weak, the widow, the orphan and the refugee.

power to serve (v.22-25)

Notice how Jesus' conversation switches.

He talks about seeds and burial and fruitfulness. He envisages a harvest arising from the burial of a single seed. He anticipates disciples following in service.

This will call for extravagant love ('hates his own life' translates a Hebrew idiom meaning *to love others more*). Love like that displayed by Mary.

Whom did Jesus have in mind that might follow him with acts of extravagant service? The other sheep? (of 10:16), the Greeks? You and me?

whom to save? (v. 27)

John has told us 'the word became flesh' (John 1:14). Now we sense the fulness of Jesus' humanity. Jesus was troubled as he faced his hour.

Others have been less troubled. We have all heard of people who faced their end bravely. For instance, in ancient times both Socrates and Cicero faced their deaths more calmly.

Yet for Jesus there was more in store as the upper room will reveal. Nevertheless, Jesus' asks, "What shall I say? Father save me? No, this is why I came." Not to save himself, but to give himself.

Make the switch! Behold the glory of God. By his death on the cross Jesus gathers believers for loving self-giving service. May we all joyfully give our time in His loving and self-giving service.



Join the churches of Whitehorse to

Jesus said
"I am the light of the world"
JOHN 8:12

LIGHT UP WHITEHORSE IN PRAYER

30 MAY - 2 JUNE 2022

Begins 7:30pm at a new location each night



In Saudi Arabia, it is a capital offence for a Muslim to leave their Islamic religion. No Saudi Christian convert from Islam is known to have been executed in recent times, but some have been murdered by their families. An unknown number of indigenous believers must follow Christ in total secrecy.

Christian migrant workers often face abuse from their employers in Saudi Arabia. No public indication of any non-Islamic religion is allowed. In 2019, Saudi Arabia opened its doors to tourists, but Christian visitors face arrest if they display their Bible in public.

The judicial system operates under a strict sharia interpretation. Blasphemy carries a potential death penalty, and charges of blasphemy suppress free speech and debate, including on social media. Terrorism is defined in law as "calling into question the fundamentals of the Islamic religion on which this country is based." In 2020 Saudi Arabia's call to the UN to define "Islamophobia" as a type of racism raised an alarm for global religious freedom.

Saudi Arabia propagates its strict Wahhabi interpretation of Islam worldwide and has provided massive financial support to Islamist groups in other nations. Barnabas Fund 2021/22



The remains of a 4th Century church near Jubail, Saudi Arabia