

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday 29 May 2022

Doxology #709  
Praise God

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn 479  
Love Divine

Young at Heart  
Whitehorse Churches Caring

Welcome and Notices  
Session Clerk: Keith Ferres

Offering and Dedication

Hymn 113  
In the cross of Christ I glory

Bible Reading: John 13:1-17

Sermon  
Devotions from the Upper Room #1:  
Jesus wears an apron

Prayers of Intercession  
and  
The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 388  
Jesus shall reign

Benediction



# NOTICES

29 MAY 2022

Wednesday 1 June

1.30 pm Prayer Meeting

Sunday 5 June

11 am Divine Worship.

The Upper Room #2 All Welcome!

May 30- June 2

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

Care Packs for people on the Police Community Support Register will be packed this week. Please speak to Keith for details.

### For your prayers this week

Congregational members: Will FINDLAY and Elise RUTHERFURD with Arthur.



and

Warwick and Natalie SHORT who have now taken on the role of SIL 'Member Care'.



## GARDENIA ST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

53 Gardenia Street,  
Blackburn 3130



Minister: Rev Graham Bradbeer

tel. 9893 3355 mobile. 0409 978 690

Session Clerk: Mr Keith Ferres 9830 5466

Treasurer: Mr Vic Ansell 5447 7118

Electronic Banking Details: ANZ Forest Hill,  
Account name: Blackburn Presbyterian Church  
BSB: 013-328. Account number: 2970 40694

## GARDENIA ST. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BLACKBURN

29 May 2022



Devotions from an Upper Room

#1 Jesus wears an apron

# WELCOME

## Jesus wears an apron

[John 13:1-17]

**Intro** Having withdrawn from the crowds, John now presents Jesus in an upper room with the disciples. As I hope we shall see, it is a venue of great significance, where human history is forever changed.

### the time had come (v.37-43)

In closing his ministry to 'his own' people Jesus had spoken about light and darkness. Passover was near. The time for the lambs to be killed.

At this 'hour' Jesus speaks of his death by being 'lifted up'. The Satan, ruler and prince of this world (12:31, 14:30), would be thrown out when Jesus was lifted up to die.

Judas betrayed Jesus. By his betrayal of his friend, whose wondrous 'signs' shone laser lights into the darkness, Judas became known as an agent of darkness.

### the robe and the apron (v.46)

Jesus laid aside the robe he wore and took servant attire, an apron. Then with a basin he lowered himself to the level of his disciples feet, to wash them. It was gob-smacking! We get the impression the whole group was stunned into silence, until Jesus reached Peter!

This action of Jesus was a microcosm of an astonishing reality. With the incarnation as the undergirding truth, Paul was later to write to Philippi (Philippians 2). He, who was equal with God, humbled himself taking the form of a slave.

Why did Jesus do this?

### wash clean, not hygiene (v.47)

It wasn't that the disciples had dirty feet, it was about something much more significant.

Sermon  
Notes



It was about being washed by Jesus. This action of his was explicitly and highly symbolic.

As Eugene Peterson translates, it was not about hygiene, but holiness. All disciples have to learn that cleansing is needed. God is holy. Jesus is holy. Disciples must become holy too. This means disciples need cleansing and forgiveness. When Peter understood this he wanted full immersion! He had to learn that only the cleansing touch was needed.

Judas, unmoved by the Master's object lesson, was shortly to depart. Was it just the money? Did he want to trigger a revolution among the people? Did he think Jesus would use unseen powers to bring in the kingdom by violence? On all counts, he hadn't learned the way of Jesus.

### pointing out the obvious (v.44-50)

'I'm laying down a pattern. Get it?' said Jesus. You should serve one another. Just do it! This is not self-evident truth... What might this mean today for those who want to follow Jesus?

- i) The kingdom of God is about *downward mobility*. It is the Satan who persuades us to crave recognition and accolades. 'Look at you' he whispers, and our hearts echo, 'Yes, look at me!' *Who is our master in this?*
- ii) To serve others is to *honour them* and show respect to their very being, because *they are God's workmanship*, even if they don't know it.
- iii) We so easily assess others with respect to ourselves. We need to see through the eyes Jesus. *Would Jesus wash their feet?* WWJD!
- iv) *Embrace humility*. This is the mind of the Master. He came among us as one who served. To this his parables and the letters to the churches all bear witness. One case study.



Respect for fundamental human rights in Sri Lanka has been in serious jeopardy under the Gotabaya Rajapaksa presidency. His administration has blocked accountability for grave abuses linked to the 26-year civil war that ended in 2009. In 2021, the UN Human Rights Council mandated that the UN collect and analyse evidence of international crimes for future prosecutions. The draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act was expanded, facilitating torture and other abuse. Victims of past abuses, their families, and human rights defenders are subjected to surveillance and intimidation. Muslims, Tamils, and other minorities face discrimination and threats.

Amnesty International 2021

Hunger and deprivation in Sri Lanka are the worst in living memory. There is an escalating humanitarian crisis in the country, brought about by the economic collapse of Sri Lanka which has destroyed many livelihoods. The inflation figure released last month was 18.8%, with food inflation at 25.7%. This has been compounded by recent crop failures. The very poor, which includes many in the small Christian minority, are suffering the most. Fuel shortages and power cuts up to ten hours a day are also severely impacting the livelihoods of day labourers, leaving them unable to earn a living. This all comes on top of the suffering from the Covid crisis.

Barnabas Fund 2022