

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday 26 June 2022

Doxology 709  
Praise God

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn 448  
All my hope

Young at Heart  
APWM

Welcome and Notices  
Mr Keith Ferres, Session Clerk

Offering and Dedication

Hymn 442  
in heavenly love abiding

Readings: John 13:36-14:14  
Sonya Rutherford

Sermon  
From an Upper Room #3  
Enter a safe and spacious place.

Prayer of Intercession  
and  
The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 454  
O God Thou art the Father

Benediction



# NOTICES

26 JUNE 2022

Wednesday 29 June  
Sunday 2 July

1.30 pm Prayer Meeting  
11 am Divine Worship.  
The Upper Room #4 The Gift.  
All Welcome!

For your prayers this week

Congregational members:  
Bernard and Hilary HAWKINS.



and

Rosie T [no image] from the Donvale congregation is using her IT skills with Arab World Media. They are asking for prayer for the island of Djerba in Tunisia this month [See <https://www.arabworldmedia.org> ]

## GARDENIA ST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

53 Gardenia Street,  
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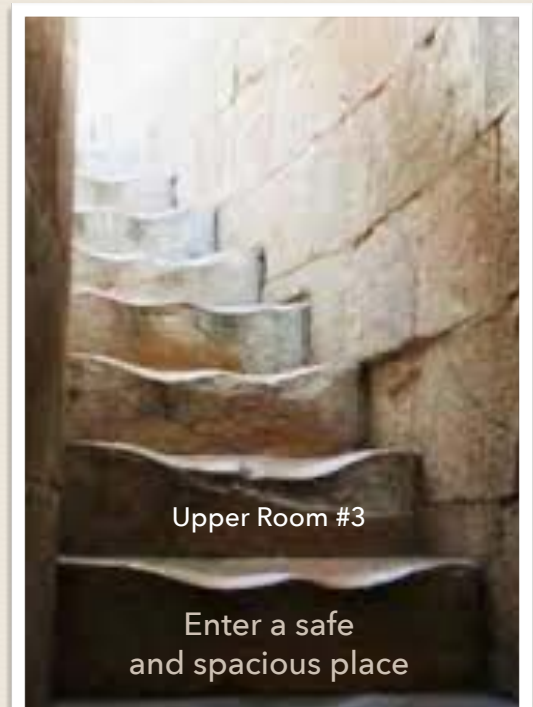
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## GARDENIA ST. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BLACKBURN

26 June 2022



Upper Room #3

Enter a safe  
and spacious place

# WELCOME

## Enter a safe and spacious place

[John 13:36- 14:14]

In this series of devotions we have joined the disciples in the upper room with Jesus.

It is his last night, Jesus is leaving (13:33) 'you cannot come where I am going'. This is not fully clear to the disciples. Jesus has a clear agenda, much to do and say. His priority is simple: Love one another - that simple, and that difficult!

### 1. on schedule departure (13:36)

In the events leading to this night Jesus has drawn on the Scriptures. Most clearly seen when he arranged to enter Jerusalem on the donkey [John 12:12ff], and the language he uses when speaking about his death, [John 12:27ff.]

Jesus 'knew his hour had come'. [13:1] Peter thinks he is ready to die for Jesus! But no, says Jesus, tonight you will deny me three times. This night he is leaving them. Alone. His world is contracting.

### 2. a 'spacious place' of safety (14:1)

The temple in Jerusalem [John 2:16] represented the place where heaven touched earth; where God and humanity were in harmony. Jesus called it his 'Father's house'. Jesus tells his troubled disciples that his departure will secure for them a large, safe and spacious place where heaven and earth actually do meet.

The Bible draws on the image of a 'spacious place' or 'large room' [Eg., 2 Samuel 22:20, Psalm 18:19, Psalm 118:5, and Hosea 4:16, to denote a place of openness, safety, and freedom. This is associated with the deliverance and delight of the Lord, and applied personally and nationally.

The disciples will world will open up in safety. Jesus will book them into his 'Father's house. This is a much fuller concept than 'going to heaven

Sermon  
Notes



when you die'. It embraces to completion (*teleos*) of all things. [1 Corinthians 13:10]

### 3. Hey Google! Which way? (14:5)

While Jesus' words seem immediately appealing, to Thomas they are opaque. What does Jesus mean? How does one get to the Father's house?

In response Jesus utters words which 'have haunted and confronted the world's imagination ever since. "I am the way". if you want to know how to get to the father's house, you must come with me' [NTW].

In the Western world these words have become controversial. How dare Christianity make such an exclusive claim? Aren't all religions basically equal, as in a democracy? Well, no, they're not.

Those who study them know they are different. Eg., Buddhism has no god, Islam has no Father.

If we dethrone Jesus we enthrone something or someone else, and in the process lose Jesus, and the whole New Testament.

### 4. like Father, like Son (14:10,11)

Phillip enters the conversation and cuts to the chase; 'show us the Father, that's all we need'. To this Jesus responds 'Whoever has seen me has seen the Father'.

Jesus is in the Father, and the Father is in Jesus the Son. They have the same DNA. We will never know more of God the Father, than is made known through Jesus the Son.

Jesus the good shepherd, who gave his life for the sheep, lowly Jesus washing his disciples feet. Instead of humility and self-sacrifice, the church has been arrogant and self-serving.

When his disciples demonstrate the same love by their humility and self-sacrifice, then 'all men will know' that we are Jesus' disciples.



Security forces continued to respond to peaceful protests with arbitrary arrests and excessive force with impunity. The military justice system increased prosecutions of civilians, including four people for publicly criticising the president. The authorities imposed arbitrary travel bans on at least 50 Tunisians and placed at least 11 under arbitrary house arrest. Freedom of expression was curtailed under vague and repressive laws. A refugee was returned to Algeria where he was imprisoned. Domestic violence against women increased. Amnesty International 21/22

The growing influence of Islamic extremism has increased hostility towards Christians. Believers who publicly profess their faith face job insecurity, and are often isolated from their friends, family, and community. Violence has increased in the last year, as well as attacks on Christian properties.

Though some churches operate freely, they often face difficulties, particularly when hiring staff or publishing and distributing Christian texts.

To leave Islam is viewed as a betrayal and a dishonour to family and relatives, who will do anything to bring the believer back to their former faith. Many Christians choose to keep their faith a secret.

Muslim spouses threaten to divorce Christians and take their children away. Christians are also not likely to be treated equally in court, particularly when it comes to issues involving family law. Open Doors 2022