

ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday 3 July 2022

Doxology 709
Praise God

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn 328 (R)
Worship the Lord

Young at Heart

Welcome and Notices
Mr Keith Ferres, Session Clerk

Offering and Dedication

Hymn 299 (R)
Turn us again

Readings: John 14:8-26
Carolyn Hart

Sermon
From an Upper Room #4
The Gift and the Glory.

Prayer of Intercession
and
The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 318 (R)
Your Kingdom come, O God!

Benediction



NOTICES

3 JULY 2022

Wednesday 6 July
Sunday 10 July

1.30 pm Prayer Meeting

11 am Divine Worship.

The Upper Room #5: My Peace

There will be a brief congregational meeting following worship 10 July.

For your prayers this week

Congregational member: Ian HILL

and



Matt and Kate VINICOMBE and family are with CMS in Groote Eyland, working in the Anindilyakwa language they are checking the first draft of Revelation.



GARDENIA ST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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GARDENIA ST.
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BLACKBURN

3 July 2022



Upper Room #4

The Gift

WELCOME

The Gift, and the Glory.

The disciples were troubled and upset that Jesus was leaving them. In responding to Phillip's desire to see the Father, Jesus spoke of the unity of the Father and the Son.

The Father and Son have been working in the world. With Jesus' departure this is not over. It is going to escalate! There is so much more for disciples to achieve; 'greater things'!

To accomplish this the Father and Son have a parting gift. Let's look at four key ideas:

1. God's work: greater still (v.10,12,13)

The world is broken. We can all imagine a better world. Jesus rolled back disease, corruption and sin. It was a demonstration of God's rule on earth. It was reason enough to believe in him. But there was so much more.

The real Passover lamb was about to die. The sacrifice that sets people free from their sins was about to be offered.

To achieve this work the disciples are told that whatever they ask 'in Jesus' Name' will be answered. This is not a cypher tagged at the end of a list, but a perception of one who has 'the mind of Christ'; seeing how Jesus would want things done.

2. God's Spirit: Jesus' parting gift (v. 15,16,16,26)

To lead them in this work they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The rich Greek word used here and in the next two chapters, is *παράκλητον* (*paraklēton*). Translated as

- i. Helper - our need for help is not unnoticed. The Spirit comes to help. What kinds of help?
- ii. Comforter - what a rich concept is 'comfort' especially in the distress and confusion the

Sermon
Notes



disciples are feeling. A loving presence can bring great comfort in a moment of crisis.

iii. Advocate - used in the law courts to describe someone who speaks on behalf of another. Who remind disciples of the truth and reminds disciples of the teaching of Jesus (v.16, 26).

3. God's words: truth matters (v.10, 12, 21, 23)

The Christian faith arises from written texts which bear witness to Jesus Christ. They purport to be the fulfilment of the Hebrew scriptures and comply with the norms of historiography.

On the basis on internal evidence - four Gospels and crosscheck documents, and external evidence - thousands of early manuscripts, the text of the New Testament is the most verifiable of ancient documents. To Jesus' disciples the truth really mattered!

4. God's glory: in Jesus' Name (v.13,14,19, 21)

Through the message of Jesus God speaks into the world about another way of living. We can go on in our own native darkness, hoping things

will get better, or we can ask for God's light on our path. This God will give! Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12ff).

The glory of God is seen in the death of Jesus. Though him sin is forgiven and a new life begun (Remember Nicodemus in John 3?)

We all need this message. There is a lot of bad news about. The world is as broken today as it ever was. In wealthy Australia there is an epidemic of mental ill health and loneliness. Things are typically worse in poorer countries.

It is by the Spirit we share in the life of Jesus. We are encouraged to ask for this gift (Luke 11:13), a gift which the Father delights to bestow.



Opposition politicians, journalists, human rights defenders and others faced baseless investigations, prosecutions and convictions. Turkey withdrew from the Istanbul Convention. Government officials targeted LGBTI people with homophobic rhetoric. Freedom of peaceful assembly was severely curtailed. A new law unduly restricted freedom of association for civil society organisations. Serious and credible allegations of torture and other ill-treatment were made. Turkey hosted 5.2 million migrants and refugees, but thousands of asylum seekers were denied entry. Amnesty International 21/22

Christians experience incredible pressure from increasing religious nationalism. The government continues to target Christians, even foreign believers, who are likely to be deported. All Christians have limited access to state employment and experience discrimination in private employment. It's not technically illegal for Muslims to convert to Christianity, but any Muslim who does decide to follow Jesus comes under immense strain from their families and communities.

All Christians are under pressure in Turkey, but converts from Islam are certainly the most vulnerable, along with Christian refugees from countries like Iran, Iraq, and Syria. The persecution against converts from Islam is greatest in the rural areas of Turkey. Christians in more historical Christian traditions—groups like the Armenian and Assyrian churches—face higher pressure and hostility in Turkey's southeastern region. Open Doors 2022