

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth**  
**Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Rev. Gerry Gallant**

**Our Greater Work**  
**Proper 21**  
**John 14:1-14**

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Here God speaks to us words of challenge and comfort.  
**Here Jesus stands among us, calling us to acts of mercy.**

Even now, the Holy Spirit is moving in our midst,  
**filling us with hope and inspiring us to faithfulness.**

Let us worship God, ever Three and ever One.  
**Let us praise God's holy name together!**

**Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

Eternal Father,  
beauty and harmony mark your creation.  
As the seasons change,  
we see you are still at work in the world,  
transforming hearts and situations.  
We praise you for all you do to in this world  
bringing peace to places of conflict,  
working for goodness to prevail.  
Father, you offer us new possibilities day by day,  
and so we place our trust in your redeeming power.  
Renew our energy to fulfil your mission for each of us this autumn  
and open our eyes to new opportunities to reach out in Jesus' name.  
Through the power of the Spirit, strengthen us to participant in your work,  
And bring peace and joy into the world you love.  
**Amen.**

**Children's Video: "God is Good (at all times)"**

**Call to Confession**

Prepare the way of the Lord!  
Let us make our confession to God.

**Prayer of Confession**

Compassionate God,  
you open your heart to those in need,  
and to your aching creation.  
We confess we often turn away  
so that we do not have to see pain, suffering or injustice,  
right before our eyes.  
We don't like to feel uncomfortable  
or pressed into service.  
Forgive us, and  
give us courage to love others as you love us  
and reach out with the care we have witnessed in Jesus. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon**

The prophet Micah declared that God requires of us three things:  
to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.  
To all who repent, who act for justice and seek to serve God and neighbour in kindness,  
God offers forgiveness and peace.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name  
Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one  
For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
Forever and ever, Amen.

**Hymn: "Jesus Strong and Kind"**

Jesus said  
That if I thirst  
I should come to him  
No one else can satisfy  
I should come to him.

Chorus

For the Lord is good and faithful  
He will keep us day and night  
We can always run to Jesus  
Jesus, strong and kind.

Jesus said  
If I am weak  
I should come to him  
No one else can be my strength  
I should come to him. (Chorus)

Jesus said  
That if I fear  
I should come to him  
No one else can be my shield  
I should come to him. (Chorus)

### **Responsive Reading**

#### **Psalm 78:1-4**

1 Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

**2 I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will utter dark sayings from of old,**

3 things that we have heard and known,  
that our fathers have told us.

**4 We will not hide them from their children,  
but tell to the coming generation  
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,  
and the wonders that he has done.**

**Anthem (Music Ministry): "Light of the World"**

**Prayer for Illumination**

## Scripture

### John 14:1-14

**14** “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

## Sermon

We continue this week looking at the conversation that Jesus is having in the upper room with his disciples as they celebrate the Passover meal.

The meal is done, and Jesus has told them some things so far during this meal which have been a bit of a shock for them. First, he told them that he is leaving, He has told them that one of them will betray him, and that they all will forsake him, even Peter who so adamantly swore he would lay down his life for Jesus.

These are some big things, and it has troubled the hearts of the disciples to hear these things, so Jesus begins to tell them that even though all these things happen they will still be with God.

### John 14:1

**14** “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

Jesus knew their hearts would be troubled and tells them do not let your hearts be troubled.

Jesus is telling his disciples that they have some control over the way that their hearts react.

So many people believe that they have no control over the way that their heart reacts, over the things that they feel. So many people find themselves the victim of their troubled heart.

Jesus says do not let your heart be troubled.

God knew that we would love troubled lives, God knows that we face trials, temptations and tribulations. He knows that these things trouble the hearts of mankind, and he tells us to not let our hearts be troubled by these things.

You can have a troubled life and an untroubled heart.

The disciples are about to have a very troubled life, when Jesus ascends, they will face extreme persecution from all the people in the region as they establish the church, and Jesus is saying even in the midst of that your heart can be at peace.

How can they remove the troubles from their heart?

The power of positive thinking is what the world will tell you. Buck up buckaroo, chin up buttercup, turn that frown upside down and keep on trucking. We all know just how effective that is when we suppress feelings and carry on not with a peaceful heart, but a wounded one that is troubled.

The empty hope of it will be better because of positive thinking does not work.

So, what does Jesus suggest?

**'Believe in God; believe also in me.'**

Place your faith and trust fully in me, and your heart will be untroubled.

If you trust in God you can be living a life filled with troubles, filled with trials and filled with temptations and filled with chaos and tribulations, and still have a heart that is at peace.

If you have the peace of God in your heart there is nothing in this world that can take that away from you.

**John 14:2**

**<sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?**

Jesus tells his disciples with complete confidence that there is an afterlife, there is a heaven, a place for all of God's children to dwell. Jesus knew because unlike every human on this planet, Jesus came from heaven to earth. He knew it was there and waiting for God's children.

Notice that Jesus says that there will be many rooms, many, at that time there were not many followers of Jesus Christ.

You had the disciples, eleven men because Judas had already left to betray Jesus, you had some women who faithfully followed him along with the disciples and a group of men who had come to faith as well. There were no more than one hundred to one hundred and fifty Christians in the world at that time.

Yet Jesus says that there are many rooms, the disciples had no idea that at some point in the future there would be billions of Christians on this planet, people of every nation, every language, that would all come together to worship at the throne of God. They had no idea that Jesus was indeed foretelling them of what was to come and of the need for many mansions.

Jesus is telling His disciples that he is going ahead of them, and out of His love for them he will prepare their eternal dwelling place for them.

Jesus is preparing the eternally dwelling place for everyone of you that he loves. Do you understand that?

When someone loves someone, they prepare a place. Many couples when they have a baby prepare a place for that baby, they pick color schemes, they pick themes, they put all kinds of work into decorating that room, and the baby has no idea what any of it means.

Love prepares a place.

When you have guests visit your home, you prepare your home. You clean the house, you wash the sink, vacuum the house from top to bottom. Why do you do these things? Because you love the people who are visiting. You do not do the same things when the cable guy shows up, or the water meter person.

Love prepares a place, and Jesus is in heaven right now preparing a place for each one of his sheep. This is perhaps one of the most comforting lines of Scripture we have. When people are

facing the end of their days here on this planet, they can have peace in their hearts because Jesus is preparing a place in heaven for them.

**John 14:3-4**

**<sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going.”**

And he is coming back for his faithful servants. Jesus is bringing all his sheep to His kingdom, every Christian who has ever walked on this planet will go to heaven.

Heaven is described in the Book of Revelation as a city with streets of gold, gates made from great pearls, precious gems embedded over those gates. Heaven is filled with an army of angels that worship and praise God at the foot of His throne unceasingly.

Even with all those things the greatest thing we have in heaven is the presence of Jesus our Savior.

What makes heaven great is Jesus, and if you do not care about him here on earth, why would you care to spend eternity with him in heaven? And there is only one way to that eternal dwelling place, Jesus.

**John 14:5-7**

**<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

Thomas is our human representative in the Scripture today. He speaks up and says Jesus, what are you saying?

Thomas is showing all of us that it is ok to not understand what Jesus says sometimes, but when we do not understand, we should seek to understand, we should ask questions.

I love it when people come to me with questions about the Word of God, even the hard questions, because every question we ask brings us closer to knowing God.

This is why I teach the Scriptures the way that I do, I am trying to help you understand God, trying to answer the questions you have, and create some new ones, so that you will continue to seek to know God better in your lives, continue to grow closer to God in your lives, and have Jesus meet you at the end of your life and bring you to your eternally dwelling place in God's kingdom.

Thomas does not understand, he says 'What is this way?' and Jesus responds.

**"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**

Jesus did not say, 'I am a way!', He said, 'I am the way!'

Jesus did not say, 'I will teach you a truth!', He said, 'I am the truth!'

Jesus did not say, 'I will offer you the secrets to a good life', He said, 'I am the good life!'

Jesus is the answer.

So many people are lost and wandering in this world, seeking their place, seeking their identity, jumping from sin to sin, from worldly pursuit to worldly pursuit, never finding peace, never finding a foundation on which to build their life.

Jesus says, **'I am the way!'**

So many people are confused by the constantly shifting truths of this world, by the meaning of words changing daily, by the definitions of man and woman being blurred to please those who cannot find themselves. So many people are confused about what is real and what is fantasy, we live in a world where we prefer to expand the definition of truth over getting people the mental help that they so desperately need.

Jesus says, **'I am the truth!'**

We live in a world where people are giving up, where depression and anxiety are commonplace. Where suicide rates are climbing, where medical assisted dying is quickly becoming a popular option not just for the elderly in the palliative stage of life, but to those who are facing difficulties of all sorts in their life.

Jesus says, **'I am the life!'**

Jesus is the answer. No matter what is going on in this world, no matter what temptation you face, what trial you find yourself in, or even what tribulation and chaos is occurring in your life, Jesus is the answer.

Sunday school had it right.

Jesus is the answer, and Jesus makes it clear he is the only correct answer.

**“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”**

Jesus is removing all confusion. Jesus is not a way among many ways to heaven, Jesus is not just one truth among many truths, Jesus is not one life among many lives.

He is the one and only way!

This is an absolute truth that modern society hates. They do not like only having one way, so they try to say all paths lead to heaven, being a good person leads to heaven. They say ‘God loves me just the way I am, he made me this way and he is leading me a different way because he loves me’.

They want the ability to pick and choose their way to the pearly gates. To live their life the way that they want to here on earth and still have that eternally dwelling place in God’s kingdom.

They are really bothered by what Jesus is saying here, because he is removing all of the options.

**“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”**

This goes against the ways of the world. People want to believe that they have many options to get to heaven, yet there is only one.

God has said this from the very beginning.

**Exodus 20:1-3**

**20 And God spoke all these words, saying,**

**<sup>2</sup>“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.**

**<sup>3</sup>“You shall have no other gods before me.**

Over and over in the Old Testament God shows he is the only God. There is no picking and choosing. There is only one God, and when Jesus says ‘He is the only way to heaven’, he is just repeating the lesson of the Old Testament.

Many people think it is not fair that there is only one way to heaven. However, they forget the truth of the cross.

Jesus Christ was nailed to a cross, the sins of you and I were laid upon his flesh, and the judgment of God, the wrath of God for all our sins and transgressions was fully released up him. Jesus went through spiritual agony for you and I. We cannot even fathom what he endured for us.

Jesus Cries out on the cross

**'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?'**

**'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'**

Jesus dies for us, and when you deny that He is the only way, you are saying his death was a good start, but I want more. I want more; I want another way to pay for my sin than being obedient to your Son.

You are saying to God, that the death of your only Son for my sins and transgression was not enough, God you need to do more for me.

Jesus dies upon the cross, giving all he was because of his love for all mankind, so how can man say 'God that was not enough I want more'.

So, there is only one way to be right with God, there is only one way to get into that eternal dwelling place in heaven.

The Bible tells us it is a narrow road, a path less trodden, a single gate, all that leads through Jesus Christ. It sounds so restrictive, its sounds so difficult, it sounds nearly impossible.

However, the truth is that there is only one requirement, to come to God through Jesus Christ, and everyone who humbles themselves, everyone who honestly confesses their sins, everyone who repents and turns away from their old life and seeks to know God better and live by his Word is accepted. EVERYONE!

It does not matter what your social status is, what your nationality is, what your age is, what your financial status is, no worldly way of dividing people in this world matters. It does not matter if you have a few sins or you have many sins, all that matter is that you accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

This is one of the things which has frustrated people since the very beginning of the Church, anyone and everyone is accepted. The Romans could not understand how you could walk into a church and see a slave and a master sitting beside one another. They did not understand how you could see men and women praising God together. They could not fathom how people of different ethnicities, different social status, different cultural backgrounds could all come together in peace and worship God.

The only requirement to be a Christian is to be a follower of Jesus Christ. The door is wide open for anyone to walk through, but you can only walk through Jesus to get in.

**John 14:7-8**

**<sup>7</sup> If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."**

**<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."**

Phillip says 'show us the Father'. What was he expecting, God to appear in the room?

**John 14:9-11**

**<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.**

Jesus tells him, if you have seen me, you have seen the Father.

God is in heaven, we will never see him, but Jesus represented him when he walked on earth. If we see Jesus, if we follow Jesus we see God in this world.

Jesus is our example of God's love, God's grace, and God's mercy.

Jesus is a perfect representation of God, and if we want to get to know God better, we need to spend time in His Word.

**John 14:12**

**<sup>12</sup> "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.**

Jesus begins to bring assurance to His disciples.

Jesus has told them that he is leaving, that their discipleship is about to end, they are probably feeling confused and disheartened, feeling lost.

Then Jesus says 'I maybe leaving but the work must go on, and you are going to be the ones who carry out the work'.

He tells them that they will do greater works.

In what way do you think Jesus meant greater works?

Greater miracles?

Jesus healed the sick, he walked on water, he calmed the storms, he raised the dead.

Anyone here done any of these things lately?

Has anyone healed the sick, raised the dead, walked on water?

I know no one can control the storms or we would have much better weather every Sunday.

Jesus was not talking about more sensational miracles. Jesus was not saying that we would do greater works in that sense.

If those were the greater works that Jesus was speaking of, no one in history has lived up to his Word.

So, what did he mean by greater works?

When Jesus ascended, he left the earth with between one hundred and one hundred and fifty followers.

The first day that the Holy Spirit came to the people of God, the first day that the Holy Spirit began its work through God's Children, three thousand people from all nations came to faith in Jesus Christ.

The day of Pentecost was greater works, and the spreading of the Gospel through the Holy Spirit in God's children is still doing greater works in the world today!

Jesus was telling the disciples do not worry, you will still be carrying on my mission, you will do greater works.

**John 14:13-14**

**<sup>13</sup> Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.**

Jesus tells his disciples to ask, to pray, to seek God in their daily lives.

To ask in His name. He does not mean just ending a prayer with, 'In Jesus name, Amen.'

Praying in Jesus name is not like having a magic genie.

I cannot pray,

God

Give me a million dollars,

Make my life simple,

Remove my enemies,

Heal and protect my friends,

And make me the handsomest and most charming man in the world.

And remove evil from the world

In Jesus name,

Amen.

Jesus is not a genie, we cannot just say the words, 'in Jesus' name.' and believe that God must give us what we prayed for.

He means praying with an understanding that God answers our prayers because of our relationship with His son. We are not praying on our own merits, but because of the relationship that was restored through the sacrifice that Jesus made upon the cross for each of us.

And this means that when we pray in Jesus name, we are praying acknowledging our sins, acknowledging our faults and praying in the nature of God, not of man.

When we pray in God's nature, we are praying that God will use us, that the troubles we face, and that in those times of trial, tribulation and temptation, that God's will would be done. That God would use those times to strengthen our faith, to help us grow closer to him, and that he would help us find a peaceful heart in those times.

Jesus told us not to have a troubled heart, and that is how we can do it. To pray in Jesus' name, through His merit and according to His nature. To pray for a peaceful heart regardless of the situation we are in and place our faith and trust in God that we will receive peace from Him.

People of God we are all called to do greater works, to share the Word of God with people. We know that as we do this, as we bring the truth that Jesus Christ is, '**the way, and the truth, and the life and No one comes to the Father except through Him**' that the world will persecute us,

that they will rebel against the truth. And Lord we pray that in those times when we are at work in this world glorifying your kingdom and our hearts are troubled that we would remember we can always find peace in you.

So as you leave here today go forth knowing, that God is with you and that you are called to be at peace in your heart as you serve his kingdom by being HIS Salt and His Light in this dark and broken world.

Let us Pray,

**Grant Us Your Holy Spirit to Protect Us**

Lord God, heavenly Father,  
 through your Son you promised us  
 that whatever we ask in his name you will give us.  
 Keep us in your Word  
 and grant us your Holy Spirit,  
 that he may govern us according to your will,  
 protect us from the power of the devil,  
 from false doctrine and false worship.  
 Defend our lives against all danger  
 and grant us your blessing and peace,  
 that we may in all things  
 know your merciful help  
 and praise and glorify you as our gracious Father  
 now and forever;  
 through your Son,  
 Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 one true God, now and forever.

*Source: Veit Dietrich, d. 1549, Easter 5, Rogate*

**Hymn: "Speak, O Lord"**

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You  
 To receive the food of Your holy Word  
 Take Your truth, plant it deep in us  
 Shape and fashion us in Your likeness  
 That the light of Christ might be seen today  
 In our acts of love and our deeds of faith

Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us  
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience  
Holy reverence, true humility  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority  
Words of pow'r that can never fail  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity  
And by grace, we'll stand on Your promises  
And by faith, we'll walk as You walk with us  
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

### **Invitation to Offering**

### **Offering Prayer**

### **Closing Hymn: "Yet Not I But through Christ in Me"**

What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer  
There is no more for Heaven now to give  
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom  
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus  
For my life is wholly bound to His  
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is mine"  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven  
The future's sure, the price, it has been paid

For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon  
And He was raised to overthrow the grave.

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated  
Jesus, now and ever is my plea  
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing, "I am free"  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath, I long to follow Jesus  
For He has said that He will bring me home  
And day by day, I know He will renew me  
Until I stand with joy before the throne.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus  
All the glory evermore to Him  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat  
"Yet not I, but through Christ in me".

### **Pastoral Prayer**

Loving God,  
together we have heard you speak to us,  
welcoming us, forgiving us,  
teaching us, challenging us.  
And we have responded to you  
with praise and confession,  
listening to your Word,  
praying in thanksgiving and intercession,  
and committing ourselves to you anew.  
It has been good to be together.  
As we prepare to leave this place,  
we await your blessing  
so that we may be comforted  
by the assurance that you will  
be with us during the coming week.  
Continue to speak to us as we seek your face.  
Guide us by your Holy Spirit.  
Keep us close to you, we pray,  
in every aspect of our daily lives,  
that we may seek your honor and glory  
wherever we are and in whatever we do.  
We pray, anticipating your blessing,

for we pray in the name of Jesus,  
our Savior and Lord., who lives and rules  
with you and the Holy Spirit as the one true God. **Amen.**

### **Benediction**

May the grace of God,  
freely given through Christ, our Lord,  
and sufficient for all our needs,  
and may the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
who testifies with our spirit  
that we are God's children,  
guide and sustain us this day  
and forever. **Amen.**