

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth**  
**Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Rev. Gerry Gallant**

**God's Love**  
**Proper 28**  
**John 17:20-26**

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Lift up your heads, you gates;  
be lifted up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory?**

The LORD strong and mighty,  
the LORD mighty in battle.

**Lift up your heads, you gates;**

**lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is he, this King of glory?

**The LORD Almighty— he is the King of glory.**

**Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

God of creation and compassion,  
You hear the cries of your people.

You know our fear and despair.

In your great love, you assure us that you walk with us in Christ Jesus.

In this time of worship,

we long to see your new heaven and new earth break through,  
making your justice known and life fruitful for all your children.

We praise you for the hope you offer us in Christ Jesus.

We trust that you are at work in your church and in creation  
so all that is broken will be made new.

Through our prayers and our praise,

strengthen our trust in your promised future, O God,

Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life.

In Jesus's wonderful and all-powerful name, we pray.  
**Amen.**

### Children's Video

#### Call to Confession

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

#### Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,  
you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.  
We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.  
We have not loved you with a pure heart,  
nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.  
We have not done justice, loved kindness,  
or walked humbly with you, our God.  
Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.  
In your great compassion,  
cleanse us from our sin.  
Create in us a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within us.  
Do not cast us from your presence,  
or take your Holy Spirit from us.  
Restore to us the joy of your salvation  
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

#### Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news!  
Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.  
Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit  
Know that in Jesus,  
God embraces you, forgives you,  
and strengthens you to live a renewed life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**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: "On That Day"**

I believe in Christ, risen from the dead  
 He now reigns victorious, His kingdom knows no end  
 Through His resurrection, death has lost its hold  
 I know on that final day, I'll rise as Jesus rose.

**CHORUS**

On that day, we will see You  
 Shining brighter than the sun  
 On that day, we will know You  
 As we lift our voice as one  
 'Till that day, we will praise You  
 For your never ending grace  
 And we will keep on singing on that glorious day.

What a blessed hope, though now tired and worn  
 We will spend eternity around our Saviour's throne  
 Though we grieve our losses, we grieve not in vain  
 For we know our crown of glory waits beyond the grave. (Chorus)

Hallelujah what a day it will be!  
 For at home with You my joy is complete  
 As I run into your arms open wide, I will see  
 My Father who is waiting for me. (Chorus)

**Responsive Reading****Psalm 119:73-80**

<sup>73</sup>Your hands have made and fashioned me;  
 give me understanding that I may learn your commandments.

<sup>74</sup>**Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice,  
 because I have hoped in your word.**

<sup>75</sup> I know, O Lord, that your rules are righteous,  
and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.

<sup>76</sup> **Let your steadfast love comfort me  
according to your promise to your servant.**

<sup>77</sup> Let your mercy come to me, that I may live;  
for your law is my delight.

<sup>78</sup> **Let the insolent be put to shame,  
because they have wronged me with falsehood;  
as for me, I will meditate on your precepts.**

<sup>79</sup> Let those who fear you turn to me,  
that they may know your testimonies.

<sup>80</sup> **May my heart be blameless in your statutes,  
that I may not be put to shame!**

**Anthem (Music Ministry): "God is Good"**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture**

**John 17:20-26**

<sup>20</sup> "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. <sup>25</sup> O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

**Sermon**

We have entered into the last section of this prayer by our Lord Jesus Christ. This prayer followed a night of conversation about what their lives would be like after He had left them.

Those eleven remaining men had spent the last three years of their lives following their Rabbi, learning from him and now he was leaving them cutting their walk with him short.

Throughout John chapter 13, 14, 15, and 16 Jesus instructed them on what they would need to do; love him, abide in him, obey him. He instructed them to stand together even when the world tried to tear them apart, and he told them to expect persecution because of their obedience to him.

And after all this instruction he prayed.

He prayed for himself and that God would be glorified. He prayed for the disciples and their protection as they carried forth the truth of God in a world that would oppose them, and then he prayed for His Church, which was still yet to come.

**John 17:20**

**<sup>20</sup> "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,**

Jesus is making it very clear that his prayer is now fully extending beyond those eleven men gathered with him in that room. Jesus knew that those eleven men would carry the Word of God to the world for their entire lives, each of them willing to die to share the Word of God with the world around them.

However, he also knew that the spread of the Gospel would not end with those eleven men. He knew that new believers would be born through hearing the truth of the Word of God, and that those new disciples would also carry on the spreading of the Gospel to every corner of the world.

Jesus knew that his death upon the cross would change the entire world. He knew that the eleven men in that room would someday be over a billion people across this planet, and he prayed for all of them, every saint who has ever lived.

Jesus knew what was coming, he knew who would come to him, so when he prayed that night with his disciples. He prayed for you.

This is what he prayed.

**John 17:21**

**<sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**

Jesus knew that his followers would come from many nations, cultures and that they would speak many different languages. He knew that they would come from all levels of society, all classes of people, all levels of education, he knew that they would be incredibly diverse by the world's standards. And he prayed that even with some many differences. So much diversity that they would be united as one in the Body of Christ.

This is why true Christians find a sense of unity in Jesus Christ regardless of their difference.

Jesus looked at the eleven men in the room with him and knew that their differences would cause them to separate, so he prayed for them to be one.

Then he looked at his entire Church and saw the vast diversity that would exist within it, and he prayed that it too would be one.

This is perhaps one of the greatest blessings we have as Christians. We can meet other faithful followers of Jesus Christ almost anywhere and see past all the things that should divide us and instead focus on the one thing that unites us, our Savior.

Jesus prayed that all his faithful would get along, and yet if you look upon the world today and the divisions that exist among the faithful you might question why. Why don't all of God's children get along?

The answer is surprisingly simple.

Sin.

Sin divides us. If we had no sin we would get along perfectly.

However, sin divides us and we always think it is the other person's sin that is causing our division.

But I want to bring you back to when Jesus told the disciples that he was going to be betrayed, and each one asked, 'Is it I lord?'

We need to do this when we find division with other Christians. We need to ask ourselves, 'is it I Lord?'

We need to ask God to help us set aside our pride, our haughtiness, our sense of superiority, our judgment and our pride.

We need to accept that the sin that separates us could be just as much as them.

We need to have a humble and broken heart when we look upon our brothers and sister in Christ.

Jesus prayed that we would be one in the shape of the trinity, one like the Father and Son,

**John 17:21**

**<sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**

There is never going to be a unity of language among Christians, or a unity of Culture among Christians. There will never even be a unity of institutions or denominations.

We are different and diverse because God wants us that way. The truth is that when Christians come together and try to create these great institutions, these grand denominations, people get worldly and begin to seek wealth and power instead of God.

God does not want institutional unity or uniformity. God wants diversity, differences in the Body of Christ. People of all nations, all cultures, all languages that come together because of Faith and Faith alone.

Diversity in the Church is a blessing. God reaches out to and grabs ahold of people through different ways and different churches are vital to that. If every church was the same as our church the world would not be a better place. The diversity in our worship methods in our teaching styles, in our music, traditions and customs is part of what make the Church so wonderful.

There is not uniformity, but there is unity, unity in God. Unity through the power of the Holy Spirit, that is what Jesus is praying for.

This is what Paul speaks of in the book of Ephesians.

**Ephesians 4:1-6**

**4 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.**

Unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. This is that feeling, that blessing we have when we meet Christians from diverse denominational backgrounds. From different Christian traditions, from different styles of worship.

We do not make them conform to us, we do not create uniformity, we keep unity. We understand our differences, and we honor our traditions, but we stand united in our faith.

It is that diversity, the different practices, the different cultures, the different languages, the differ social, economic, and educational backgrounds, that all come together in peace to praise and worship the One True Living God, that glorifies God and helps the world begin to understand who he is.

**John 17:22**

<sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,

Jesus prays that the Glory of God would be with his people.

When the Glory of God is the focus of God's people we find unity. It is when the Glory of God is not the focus, when the worldly acclaim, or social justice points, or activism take priority over the Glory of God that we find our selves in disagreement with other Christians.

**John 17:23**

<sup>23</sup> **I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.**

Jesus wants us all to be interconnected, living in a personal relationship. Loving God first, abiding in God, obeying God, so that we can show the world the love of God.

The love of God in our unity and the love of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

The unity that Christ is calling for is not one of institution, not one of uniformity in worship, not one in unity of tradition or practices. But the essential unity of the Holy Spirit, the unity we have in our Faith.

And that is a difficult task for us. In fact, sometimes the most unloving people are Christians who think they are being loving.

They demand others be like them because, 'they love them.'

That is not love. That does not build up the Body of Christ. Christians need to understand that in our faith there is a blessed diversity, one that brings people to God's family.

However, there are limitations to that understanding. Sometimes correction, rebuke and confrontation are necessary in the body of Christ. When someone starts to teach something unbiblical, when they start to ignore the Word of God, we are to confront them and bring them back into the Body of Christ.

We are called to have a unity in God's truth, not a unity in worldly error.

This is why we need the Holy Spirit, this is why we need prayer, because we are called to have understanding and grace in the body of Christ and we are called to have the courage to stand up and speak when the truth of God's Word is being left behind.

**John 17:24**

**<sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.**

Jesus prayed that all who come to believe in him, would be with him. He prayed, knowing that you two thousand years after his death would come to believe in Him, he prayed that you would be with Him for eternity.

**John 17:25-26**

**<sup>25</sup> O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."**

Jesus was about to go to the cross and experience spiritual agony; to experience the debt of our sins and yet he still honored God the Father. He knew that all that he was about to go through did not diminish the Glory of God in any way.

Jesus summed up his whole mission, his time on earth in a few simple words, '**<sup>26</sup> I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known,'**

Jesus knew His victory was already accomplished. He had no fear of the cross.

The world looked at Jesus and called him a drunkard, and illegitimate child, a demon possessed man. They tried to push him down so that they could maintain their power, prestige and wealth.

Jesus did not pay heed to any of it, he knew what he had been called to do and He carried it through to the cross with absolute confidence.

And Jesus finishes his prayer with these words, **‘that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.’**”

You are the ‘them’ that Jesus is praying for.

He prayed that the love with which God the Father loved God the Son would be in you.

God loves you as much as God loves the Son. God loves you as much as he loved Jesus Christ, a love beyond our understanding.

IF Jesus loves you as much as he loved Jesus;

Why are you worried? Why are you stressed? Why are you afraid?

Trust in God’s love and find peace and joy in your heart.

The simplest thing we can ask for as a Christian is for God to fill us with His love.

We need God’s love and it is nothing like the world’s love.

If you take God’s love out of holiness you have self-righteousness.

If you take God’s love out of truth you have legalism.

If you take God’s love out of mission you have conquest.

If you take God’s love out of unity you have tyranny.

You need God’s love, and when God’s love fill us and it is present among His people we have beautiful things in our lives.

Normally I close off each sermon with a prayer of one of the early church fathers or a great preacher of the Reformation. However, today I want to end this sermon with this prayer from our Savior. This is John Chapter 17 in its entirety, the words of our Lord:

**John 17**

**17 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you**

have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. <sup>8</sup> For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup> I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

<sup>20</sup> "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. <sup>25</sup> O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

**Hymn #452: "Jesus, Stand Among Us"**

Jesus, stand among us in your risen power;  
let this time of worship be a hallowed hour.

Breathe the Holy Spirit into every heart;  
bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart.

Thus with quickened footsteps we pursue our way,  
watching for the dawning of eternal day.

### **Invitation to Offering**

### **Offering Prayer**

#### **Closing Hymn #425: "We Praise You, O God"**

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you; God ever faithful, we bless you;  
through life's storm and tempest our guide you have been.  
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,  
and with your help, O Lord, life's battles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer,  
and gladly our songs of true worship we raise.  
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing;  
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise.

### **Pastoral Prayer**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we, your unworthy servants, give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life,  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips,

but in our lives,  
by giving up ourselves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

### **Benediction**

May God himself,  
the God who makes everything holy and whole,  
make you holy and whole,  
put you together—spirit, soul, and body—  
and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ. **Amen**