

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, November 2nd, 2025
Rev. Gerry Gallant

The Hour Has Come
Proper 26
John 17:1-5

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

We come as guests invited to a table.

We come to celebrate with friends and neighbours.

Jesus Christ, our Friend and Saviour, invites us to gather.

We gather with his friends around the world.

Come and worship with hearts full of God's praise and promise.

We worship God in gladness, for God's faithfulness endures forever.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Gracious and Generous God,
you spread a banquet table and make room for all to come:
friend and foe, healed and sick, hopeful and hopeless.
You feed our desires with goodness
and fill our longing with steadfast love.
We worship you with grateful praise,
together with all your people, here and everywhere,
who break bread at your table and who share the cup.
We celebrate our life together in Christ
and offer our love and loyalty to you, O God,
source of all goodness,
through Jesus Christ, who shares our flesh,
and your Holy Spirit who prays within us.

Children's Hymn

Call to Confession

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

Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy and mystery,
When you invite us to your table,
you ask us to come with clean hands and open hearts.
You ask us to come in peace,
seeking reconciliation with you and with each other.
In this silence, we hand over to you
the broken relationships, disagreements and disappointments
that keep us from living in your peace.
Free us from the burdens we carry
which we share in this silence.
so that we may be a source of peace in this troubled world.**

Assurance of Pardon

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Your sins are pardoned.
The penalty is paid.
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: 57-64

⁵⁷ The Lord is my portion;

I promise to keep your words.

⁵⁸ **I entreat your favor with all my heart;
 be gracious to me according to your promise.**

⁵⁹ When I think on my ways,

I turn my feet to your testimonies;

⁶⁰ **I hasten and do not delay
 to keep your commandments.**

⁶¹ Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,
 I do not forget your law.

⁶² **At midnight I rise to praise you,
 because of your righteous rules.**

⁶³ I am a companion of all who fear you,
 of those who keep your precepts.

⁶⁴ **The earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast love;
 teach me your statutes!**

Anthem (Music Ministry): "As We Break the Bread"

Prayer for illumination
(Congregant Prepared)

Scripture

John 17:1-5

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, ²since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

Sermon

Over Chapters thirteen through sixteen Jesus has been instructing his disciples, preparing them for what is to come after his arrest, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension, and here in Chapter seventeen, Jesus prays, this is the longest recorded pray of our Lord and Savior in the Scripture, it is a conversation between Jesus and God the Father, and in it we can find great reassurance and hope.

I wrestled with how to teach this prayer, I wanted to do it all as a single lesson, but I thought sitting in the pews for more than a couple hours would be difficult. So, we will look at this prayer in three parts, the first part is Jesus praying for Himself. Next week we will see Jesus praying for his disciples, and then finally we will look at Jesus’s prayer for his church, his people.

Even though this is the longest prayer of Jesus Christ recorded in the Scriptures to read it from beginning to end would take less than five minutes. Prayer is not about length, it is about connecting truthfully and honestly with God, which is what we will see Jesus do in this prayer.

John 17:1-2

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, ²since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

John begins by telling us, ‘**when Jesus had spoken these words**’, and he is referring to all the words spoken by Jesus from Chapter thirteen through Chapter sixteen, John is letting us know we have finally reached the end of this conversation that is occurring in the upper room.

If you can remember back to last week, Jesus had just told the disciples that they will be facing great tribulations in the world, and then he goes into a prayer to keep them from falling into the world, to be kept purified, sanctified and to have perseverance.

Jesus prays for himself, his disciples and his church, but take note of how he prays. **‘He lifted up his eyes to heaven’**.

This is something we need to acknowledge. When Jesus prayed he did not clasp his hands together, bow his head, close his eyes. Instead, he lifted his eyes to heaven; in fact he lifted his arms to heaven as well and spoke his prayers out loud.

There is no direct instruction in the Scripture on how we are to pray to God physically. There is no instruction on how we are to hold our hands, or whether we should be standing, sitting or prostrate on the ground. There is no instruction on whether we should pray out loud or in silence. There are no instructions on whether your eyes should be open or closed. There is just one instruction really when it comes to prayer, do it, pray to God often and regularly, have a direct relationship through conversation with God, whenever, wherever and however you can.

Jesus then starts by saying these words, **‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,’**. The hour has come, over and over in the Scriptures, starting in Chapter two Jesus has been saying, **‘my hours has not yet come’**, yet here in Chapter seventeen the hour has finally arrived.

Throughout the book of John, Jesus has been making a reference to this time, the time of his arrest, his crucifixion, his burial and his resurrection. He knew from the start of his ministry that this his death upon the cross, as a substitute for us and our sins would be inevitable.

This once again shows us that everything in this world happens according to God’s timeline. Jesus knew that his hour was coming, he knew that he would have to die upon the cross, but he had to wait for the correct time. We see this echoed in the second coming of Christ that is described in the book of Revelation, the hour is only known by God the Father.

Remember that when you see all these people today prophesying and talking about the End of Times, Jesus himself did not know the hour, so how is man supposed to predict or determine the hour. Instead, we are called to live each day as if it could be our last, serving God faithfully in all we think, say and do.

God does it all according to his plan, and his plan is perfect.

Jesus knows his hour has come, and he prays that God would glorify the Son. In the Greek, the request that Jesus makes here is that God would, **‘glorify your Son that the Son may glorify**

you,' is more than just a request, it is in the imperative form meaning it is a command, showing that God the Father and God the Son are equal.

Jesus could command God because he is God, we cannot do the same in our prayers.

Jesus commanded that He would be glorified in the sacrifice that he is about to make, for the Glory of God. Jesus's prayer was not a selfish pray, it was a prayer for the Glory of God.

Jesus throughout the last few chapters has told the disciples that they will get whatever they ask for as long as they ask for it in Jesus's name. Meaning they ask according to the will and nature of Jesus and according to the merit of Jesus.

Here in his prayer Jesus is giving them an example of this, he is not praying for himself or for his glory, but instead that through what he is about to do the Glory of God would be known in this world.

When we pray, we should be doing the same, not praying for our own glory, but instead for the glory of God to shine through us into this world. We don't pray for our own advancement in this world, our own power, prestige or pleasure, instead we are to pray for the Glory of God, the Kingdom of heaven to be advanced in this world, through the work of the Holy Spirit in us and through us.

This means when we pray for healing, we pray that God would be glorified though healing, and if God's plan is not to heal, that if God's plan is to take them home to him in His eternal kingdom, that God's name would be glorified even in death.

We should pray that whatever the will of God is we want that to happen in our lives and in the world around us so that God is glorified. We say this every week, 'your will be done, on earth as in heaven'

This is what we are praying for, God's will to be done. Our prayer is not meant to bend God to our will, but instead to bend our hearts to God's will. Our prayer should bring us more into alignment with God's plans and purpose for us in this world, than our own desires.

This is why I keep talking about your prayer life. Prayer works in our hearts to bring us closer to God in our lives. We need to be praying so that we learn to give up our own selfishness and willfulness and instead turn to and trust in the Lord our God.

In our prayer we need to learn to submit ourselves to God's glory and God's will.

Here when Jesus prays to be glorified, he is speaking of the Cross. It is at the cross where God is glorified, the world looks at the cross and stumbles, the world looks at the cross and mocks, the

world looks at the cross and see death, yet the Christian looks at the cross and sees God glorified.

Jesus died on the cross as an example of his love, grace, mercy, righteousness, wisdom, power, holiness and forgiveness.

This is what theologians call the Theatre of the Cross. The world looks at the cross and sees a thing of horror, shame, and weakness. The Bible declares that the cross is a thing of glory.

God is glorified not in our strength but in our weaknesses. God is not glorified in our health and wealth, he is glorified in all of our weaknesses, in all of the ways that he lifts us up and carries us through this world. When God is at work in us, his grace and mercy shine most brightly in those parts of us where we are weak, in our ability to endure and overcome those things of this world which cause us shame.

Jesus then continues, '**since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him**'

Jesus has power and authority over all flesh, given to him by the Father. He is also the one who has the power to give eternal life, just a few weeks ago we heard Jesus say that he is, 'the way, the truth and the life', he has told the disciples that they are to abide in him and show their love for him by keeping his commandments.

Jesus is speaking of having the Holy Spirit and through the power of the Holy Spirit in you, he has granted you eternal life, even if you are dying here on earth. Brothers and sisters, you have eternal life the very instant that the Holy Spirit begins its work in you.

John 17:3-4

³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

Everyone who belongs to God, has eternal life, and having eternal life means that you know God. Without God you cannot have eternal life. The word '**Know**' used here is the Greek word 'ginosko' which means to know intimately and experientially. This is more than just intellectual knowledge of God, this is speaking of a relationship with God that is like a relationship between a husband and wife, Like the relationship that existed between Adam and Eve where two become one flesh.

A true Christian knows God not just intellectually but through experience in their lives. They know God the Father, through God the Son, with the help of the God the Holy Spirit.

Christians know God, they do more than believe in God, they do more than worship God, they do more than serve God. They know God, they have a relationship with God, they love God, they abide in God, they live according to his word.

If you have ever heard the hymn 'in the garden' you can understand what Knowing God is.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

That is knowing God, living in a relationship with God, loving him, abiding in him, obeying him, even when we may find it difficult.

Jesus even makes it clear that he is the only true God. There are many false gods and idols in this world, there is only One True Living God. If you do not have Jesus, if you are not in a personal relationship with Jesus, if you do not abide in Jesus, you do not have eternal life.

Jesus is the one and only way to God and he came into this world to do what God called for him to do. He came to bring Glory to God the Father through his ministry and his sacrifice upon the cross.

And this is the same thing that all Christians are called to do in this world to bring glory to God in our thoughts, in our attitudes, in our words and in our actions. If we know God and if we love God and if we abide in God, we live lives that glorify God. If we are not living lives that glorify God, then we are not doing what we are called to do in this world.

Jesus lived a life that perfectly glorified God. He finished the work that he was given, even though he has not yet taken his place upon the cross yet, he knows that God's plan is in action and that there is no turning back.

Jesus's life was short, thirty-three years, just three years of ministry, and he gave every minute of it to glorifying God.

Brothers and sisters, we need to remember this in our own lives. Life is short, we do not get to predetermine the day that we die. We need to take time to seriously consider our relationship with God, our knowledge of God, our abiding in God, our love of God.

Is our life a reflection of how much we love God or is our life a reflection of how much we love ourselves?

Are we giving our lives over to God or are we pursuing our own selfishness in this world?

One day we will have to consider our lives seriously, we will have to consider if we have really brought glory to God, if we have really done the work that he has called for us to do.

If you look back on your life today, where you are right now in this world and in your walk with God, are you glorifying him?

If you have lived a life of obedience, if you have lived a life loving God and in obedience of God you can go to death knowing that you have glorified God and done the work, he has called for you to do.

What a great sense of peace and joy that gives the heart of one who is faithful.

Look at the words of Paul as death approached.

2 Timothy 4:6-8

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

These are the words of Paul just a few hours before he was beheaded in Rome.

The reality is that we will all die one day, and on that day I pray that we can all do so with the confidence of Paul in our faith and in the glory that we have brought to God's name in our lives.

Jesus concludes this section of the prayer with these words.

John 17:5

⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

He ends praying that the same glory that he had with God before the creation of the world would be returned.

Jesus is making it clear throughout this short little prayer that Jesus is God eternal.

Jesus was with God in the beginning, he took on human flesh, he died for our sins, and he returned to his Glory in his ascension.

In these first five verses we are shown how we can overcome the world in this life.

First by knowing God and having eternal life.

Second by glorifying God in our lives

And third by doing the work that God has called for us to do.

I hope and pray that as each of us looks back on our lives we can say that we know God, we glorify God and that we are doing His work as we walk as the Salt and Light of God's Word in this dark and broken world.

Let us Pray,
For Obedience and Love
 O Lord,
 you command me to ask,
 grant that I may receive what you give.
 You have told me to seek,
 let me be happy in finding.
 You have bidden me to knock,
 I pray, open for me.
 Graciously direct and govern all my thoughts and actions,
 that, for the future,
 I may serve you
 and entirely devote myself to obeying you.
 Accept me,
 and draw me to yourself,
 that I may henceforth be yours
 by obedience and love,
 since I am already yours,
 as your creature.
 Yours, O Lord,
 you live and reign forever and ever. Amen.
Source:
Augustin of Hippo

Hymn #548: "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Let us break bread together on our knees;
 let us break bread together on our knees;
 when I fall down on my knees
 with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
 let us drink wine together on our knees;
 when I fall down on my knees
 with my face to the rising sun,
 O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
 let us praise God together on our knees;
 when I fall down on my knees
 with my face to the rising sun,
 O Lord, have mercy on me.

Communion

Invitation to the Table

In the early hours of this morning, while all was quiet and dark here, the sun was rising on the other side of the world. And with the dawn of this new day, God's people began gathering for worship amid the sounds of drums, pipes, stringed instruments or pianos and organs.

And now we, too, join in this worldwide chorus of those who call upon the name of the Lord. We remember especially that the Scriptures are fulfilled as "people will come from East and West and North and South, and will take their places at the Feast in the Kingdom of God."

So come, not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are strong, but because you seek God's strength. All those who trust in Jesus are invited to come and join in the feast that God has prepared.

Let us Pray,

All-powerful God, I am sinful. Nothing I can do can save me. I turn away from my sin, and I flee to you. I need you. I need the life-giving death and resurrection of Jesus. Send me your Spirit so that I can be made new. Thank you for offering me forgiveness. Thank you for taking the punishment I deserved. Thank you for loving me more than I could possibly imagine. Amen.

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you;
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts;
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three,
 You are the source of all that exists.
 You are beyond the galaxies, deeper than the oceans;
 You pour down rain and bring forth the fruit of the earth.
 You carry us through deep waters and hold us in the darkest night.
 So, with all your creatures, great and small,
 with angels and archangels, with saints and servants in every generation
 we join in the rejoicing of your creation:

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name
in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy is your Son Jesus, O God;
 Walking this earth, feeding the hungry, calling the lost, noticing the forgotten,
 healing those who reached out, teaching those who sought wisdom,
 he revealed your kingdom in our midst.
 Today we thank you for all Jesus shared with us
 to show us that you are always with us in times of plenty and times of pain.
 And so, we celebrate the mystery of our faith in him:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Holy Spirit, come now and settle on us
 and on these gifts of bread and wine.
 May they become for us Christ's body and life blood,
 healing, forgiving and making us whole.
 So may we become Christ's body, the Church,
 loving and caring throughout the whole world
 until that day when all creation feasts with you
 in the fullness of your mercy and peace
 that we savour today in the name of our Saviour

Let us together confess the faith of the church at all times and in all places:

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. AMEN.**

Communion

We celebrate this feast in obedience to Christ's example and mandate.

[as the minister breaks the bread]

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread,
and after giving thanks to God,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
"Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

[as the minister lifts or pours the cup]

In the same way he took the cup, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this in remembrance of me."

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,

you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord
until he comes.

Congregation of Jesus Christ,
the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him
and trust in him alone for their salvation.
All who are truly sorry for their sins,
who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus
as their Savior,
and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord
are now invited to take part in
the table of the Lord.

Taking of the bread

Take and eat.
This is the body of Christ, which is [given] for you.
Do this, remembering him.

Drinking of the cup

This cup is the new covenant
sealed by Christ's blood,
which was shed that the sins of many
might be forgiven.
Drink from it, all of you

Prayer after Communion

Loving God,
you graciously feed us
with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation.
May we who have received this sacrament
be strengthened in your service;
we who have sung your praises
tell of your glory and truth;
we who have seen the greatness of your love
see you face to face in your kingdom.
For you have made us your own people
by the death and resurrection of your Son, our Lord,
and by the life-giving power of your Spirit. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

Offering**Offertory Prayer****(Congregant Prepared)****Closing Hymn #410: "Joyful, Joyful we adore You"**

Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
 God of glory, Lord of love;
 Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,
 Op'ning to the sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
 Drive the dark of doubt away;
 Giver of immortal gladness,
 Fill us with the light of day!

Always giving and forgiving,
 Ever blessing, ever blest,
 Well-spring of the joy of living,
 Ocean-depth of happy rest!
 Loving Father, Christ our Brother,
 Let Your light upon us shine;
 Teach us how to love each other,
 Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus,
 Which the morning stars began;
 God's own love is reigning o'er us,
 Joining people hand in hand.
 Ever singing, march we onward,
 Victors in the midst of strife;
 Joyful music leads us sunward
 In the triumph song of life.

Pastoral Prayer

Enduring God,
 we thank you today for your faithfulness to us
 and to the tradition that has shaped us as disciples of Jesus.
 Thank you for your living Word which continues to reveal him,

and for the gift of your Spirit to help us interpret your wisdom
in the midst of challenging times.

Eternal God,
we give you thanks for people in our lives and across the ages
who have shown us your loving kindness through their witness to Christ
in so many different situations.
Inspire us by their examples and show us how we, too, can live out our faith
in the midst of challenging times.

Loving God,
You keep calling us to care for those in need and show hospitality to strangers in our
midst.
Thank you for your persistent love which continues to comfort and challenge us all.
Open our hearts and eyes so that we can see how to offer that love to others
in the midst of challenging times.

Living God,
You bring new life to the discouraged and those facing danger and death.
Thank you for signs of hope which break into our trials and tribulations in this world

Creating God,
we praise you for the beauty of this world and the rhythms of nature which sustain us.
Give us courage to act on our commitment to act as your stewards of all of creation

Wise God,
hear us in this time of silence as lay before you the people and places on our hearts this
day.

In Jesus name we pray. **Amen**

Benediction

Go from here to serve God, your strength renewed and your faith reassured,
for you are part of Christ's body, embracing the world in his name.
And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**