

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, November 9th, 2025
Rev. Gerry Gallant

Sanctified Servants
Proper 27
John 17:6-19

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

On this day of memories, we gather to sing and to pray;
we remember the past and look to the future.

On this day when the guns and canons fell silent,
we come before you, God, seeking your peace.

On this day of hope in the face of terror,
we come before you, God, believing in your promise.

Let us worship God together, in peace.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

O gracious and holy God,
give us diligence to seek you,
wisdom to perceive you,
and patience to wait for you.
Grant us, O God,
a mind to meditate on you,
eyes to behold you,
ears to listen for your Word,
a heart to love you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the Spirit
of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Remembrance Day

The Act of Remembrance

Call to Remembrance

“At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month the guns fell silent on the Western Front, to bring to an end the First World War. Our nation and commonwealth have recalled that moment through our Armistice and Remembrance events down the decades, decades during which the men and women of our armed services have continued to pay the ultimate sacrifice.

Scripture

MICAH 4:1-5

It shall come to pass in the latter days

that the mountain of the house of the LORD

shall be established as the highest of the mountains,

and it shall be lifted up above the hills;

and peoples shall flow to it,

² **and many nations shall come, and say:**

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,

to the house of the God of Jacob,

that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth the law,

and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

³ **He shall judge between many peoples,**

and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away;

and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,

and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war anymore;

⁴ **but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree,**
and no one shall make them afraid,
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

⁵ **For all the peoples walk**
each in the name of its god,
but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God
forever and ever.

The Ode

They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them. Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.
We will remember them.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields, the poppies blow
between the crosses, row on row,
that mark our places; and in the sky
the larks, still bravely singing, fly
scarce heard amongst the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
loved and were loved, and now we lie
in Flanders fields.

Take up your quarrel with the foe;
to you from failing hands we throw
the torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
we shall not sleep, though poppies grow
in Flanders fields.

Dr John McCrae, 1914/1915

Let us remember before God those who have died for their country in war; those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure; and all who have lived and died in the service of mankind.

**In Memory of:
World War 1**

George Bothwell
Walter A Ferrier
Graham Howie
Donald McPhail
Eric T. Spalding
Harold Stone
Edwin D. Wilson

Killed in Action in The Great War of 1914-1918

World War 2

Fred Burchell
Kenneth Davis
Norman Davis
Charles Donovan
John McLeod Hogg
Lorne Patterson

Killed in Action in The Great War of 1939-1945

The Last Post

National Anthem

O Canada!

Our home and native land! True patriot love
in all thy sons command

With glowing hearts
we see thee rise,
the true north strong and free;

From far and wide,

O Canada,
we stand on guard for thee. God keep our land
glorious and free!

O Canada!
We stand on guard for thee.
O Canada!
We stand on guard for thee.

Prayer

Lord God of the nations,
whose sovereign rule brings justice and peace,
have mercy on our broken and divided world.
Pour out your peace into the hearts of all,
that all races and peoples may learn
to live as members of one family
in obedience to your law.
Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,
either by death or life:
hear our prayers and thanksgivings
for all whom we remember this day.
Fulfill in us, as in them,
the purpose of your love;
and bring us all to your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Children's Video

Call to Confession

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

Prayer of Confession

Have mercy on me, O God,

according to your steadfast love;
 according to your abundant mercy
 blot out my transgressions.
 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
 and cleanse me from my sin.
 For I know my transgressions,
 and my sin is ever before me.
 Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
 and done what is evil in your sight,
 so that you are justified in your sentence
 and blameless when you pass judgment.
 You desire truth in the inward being;
 therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
 Hide your face from my sins,
 and blot out all my iniquities.
 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
 and put a new and right spirit within me.
 Do not cast me from your presence,
 and do not take your holy spirit from me.

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 #268: "All Hail King Jesus"

All hail King Jesus.
 All hail Emmanuel,
 King of kings, Lord of lords,
 bright Morning Star,
 and throughout eternity

I'll sing your praises,
and I'll reign with you
throughout eternity.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 119:65-72

⁶⁵ You have dealt well with your servant,
O Lord, according to your word.

⁶⁶ **Teach me good judgment and knowledge,
for I believe in your commandments.**

⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted I went astray,
but now I keep your word.

⁶⁸ **You are good and do good;
teach me your statutes.**

⁶⁹ The insolent smear me with lies,
but with my whole heart I keep your precepts;

⁷⁰ **their heart is unfeeling like fat,
but I delight in your law.**

⁷¹ It is good for me that I was afflicted,
that I might learn your statutes.

⁷² **The law of your mouth is better to me
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

John 17:6-19

⁶ "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. ⁷ Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸ 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. ⁹ I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Sermon

Jesus is gathered with his eleven faithful disciples. They spent an evening together in conversation after the Passover meal, and during that time Jesus has explained to them that he is leaving, that he is going to send the Holy Spirit to be with them, and how he wants them, to be prepared for what will come after his departure, how they are to carry on as his disciples in a world that is against them, by abiding in Him, by loving Him and obeying Him.

Jesus spoke plainly and emphasized the importance of their faith in what is to come.

Then when He had finished teaching them, he prayed. That is what John chapter seventeen is, a prayer, the longest, most extended text of prayer in the Scriptures.

Last week we saw Jesus pray for Himself. This week we are looking at when Jesus prays for his disciples.

John 17:6-8

⁶ "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. ⁷ Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸ 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.

The disciples are sitting there, witnessing this intimate prayer between Son and Father.

And Jesus speaks to the Father telling him that he has manifested the Father's name to the people that were chosen, the disciples.

That word 'manifest' means more than just teaching. 'Manifesting' means making something clear and evident, it means showing. Jesus manifested God to the disciples through the way that he lived. Jesus lived out the goodness, the righteousness, the mercy, the grace, the love and the holiness of God the Father to the disciples and to the world.

Manifesting God to the world is what the disciples were told to go and do, in the Great Commission, and it is what we are called to do as Christians in the world today.

We are to live lives that manifest the name and nature of God to the world around us, and this means that we need to abide in God, adhere to God's Word and commands and not give way in our lives by conforming to the ways of the world.

Notice as well, that even though the disciples were not perfect, even though they stumble and make mistakes, Jesus says that they have 'kept your word.'

This gives us all hope, that as long as we are trying to manifest who God is in our lives, as long as we are trying to abide in Christ, even when we miss the mark, Jesus is saying that we have kept God's Word.

The disciples may not have fully understood every doctrine, every theological tidbit of importance, how the Holy Spirit works, or how the Trinity exists, however, they knew the most important fact for their salvation, that Jesus Christ was God the Son, and that they needed to listen to and obey his command.

Jesus continues in his prayer.

John 17:9-10

⁹I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.

Jesus then makes it clear that he is specifically praying for his disciples, not the entire world. Jesus loves the world, Jesus loves all of mankind, but he knows that once he is gone that his way of communicating with the world, that the way of manifesting God to the world is the disciples. So, he prays for them.

People of God, you need to understand that when Jesus says, 'for those whom you have given me', it does not just mean those eleven men gathered with Jesus that evening, it also means every faithful Christian that has walked the earth since that day, including you and me.

When we are a believer, we are to live lives that glorify God, Glorify Jesus Christ, manifesting his glory, his power, his grace, his mercy, his love and his righteousness in our lives.

John 17:11-12

¹¹ 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. ¹² 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.

Jesus states in verse eleven that he is no longer in the world, yet he is right there present with the disciples. They cannot yet comprehend what is to come, and just how alone they will be in the world once Jesus is crucified.

They cannot understand just how hated Christianity will be in the hundreds of years that follow Jesus's death and resurrection, but Jesus knows, so he prays for them, the early Christians, and us.

Those eleven men needed prayer, they would be completely on their own bringing the Word of God to the world. They would face a time of great turmoil in just a few hours as they witnessed the arrest, trial, mockery, crucifixion and burial of their master.

He prayed because his bodily presence would no longer be with them, and it would take time for them to learn to trust in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus knew that they would need his prayer and the power of God to be kept.

Kept for what you might ask?

Kept as Christians, kept as disciples of Jesus in a world which had turned against him. In the Jewish world of that time, no one continued on as the disciples of a rabbi who had died. This is why the Jewish religious leaders wanted Jesus dead, they believed that once Jesus was dead, this whole Jesus movement would simply fade away as the disciples found new conforming rabbis to follow.

So, Jesus prays for them to be kept, to continue on as His disciples. To be kept faithful to God.

And here two thousand years later we still need this prayer. We still need Jesus's prayer for us to be kept faithful to Him. If following Jesus Christ was left up to us alone, many of us would

have walked away to an easier life conforming to the world long ago. The truth is we stay faithful because of the power of God, because God has kept us through His grace and His power.

Every follower of Jesus Christ needs prayer to be kept in faith, Jesus even says, '**that they may be one**' He knew that they could be pulled apart by worldly ways, by their own desires, so he prays that they be kept as one, undivided in their faithfulness to God.

That they would be kept as one faithful in the commandments of Jesus Christ. We live in a world today where there are many people, churches and denominations that are no longer being kept as one. I am not talking about minor differences like whether we sprinkle or dunk in a baptism, or whether we believe in the rapture or not, but where the Word of God is being compromised.

As Christians we are called to be one in Christ, kept from division over worldly issues, kept from sin, kept from hypocrisy, kept living lives that abide in the vine and are obedient to God.

And we are kept, through the name of God, God works through many ways to keep us, through his angels, through our brothers and sisters in Christ, through trials, through troubles and through tribulations. God keeps us, by his character, by his power and by his authority, One with God.

Jesus said, '**that they may be one, even as we are one.**'

A unity that exists in God, not one that is imposed on this world. It is a natural unity that exists between true Christians.

Christians all around the world are very different by worldly measures. We come from different nations, different cultures, different families, different social standings, different financial standings, even different denominations of Christianity. I could list worldly difference after worldly difference, ways in which the world statistically separates people.

There is no doubt that we are different, but if we are Christians, faithful and true Christians kept by God, we are Gods First, we are kept by him in that unity first and it is who we are above every worldly division that exists.

This is why when you meet someone who is a believer, from a different nation, and a different culture who speaks a different language, you can still have that sense of unity, because you have been kept by God, you are abiding in Him, and we are all family.

We have unity, not uniformity. We do not need unity in the structure of the worldly Church; however, we do need unity of spirit, unity of heart, unity of destiny and a unity of obedience.

All who abide in the vine are God's children, even when we produce different qualities and quantities of fruit.

When Jesus was with the disciples he kept them, with the exception of Judas, '**the son of destruction**' that is a harsh title to carry.

Jesus then prays,

John 17:13-16

¹³ But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

Jesus prays, '**that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.**' He prays that they would be fulfilled, that they would find joy in this life because of Jesus Christ.

Jesus had a life of joy, yes, he bore grief, but he had joy and peace. He had happiness and the disciples wanted that in their lives. They saw the joy that Jesus had in his life because of His relationship with God the Father. They saw the joy he had because of his Faith and confidence that God the Father was always with him. Jesus saw and knew all of the great things that God had done, and that God was doing. The disciples could not see these things, they would not always understand his peace and joy.

The joy of Jesus was never diminished by sin, or by deception, the joy of Jesus never allowed Satan a foothold in His life.

Jesus lived a life of joy, and he prayed that His disciples would have that same life. Jesus prays that God would keep them and fill them with that joyful connection to God but not take them out of the world.

Do you see what Jesus is teaching us here? We are not meant to remove ourselves from the world around us. We are not meant to separate ourselves from the world, live in our own little communities of faithful Christians so that we can have the joy of God in our lives.

We are not to remove ourselves from the world, instead we are to be imbedded in it. Imbedded in the world but not living a life of the world.

The same way you put a lifeboat in the water, but you do not want the water in the lifeboat.

Jesus wants us living lives in this world, actively living lives that manifest God, lifeboats of salvation, living in the world, but not letting the world live in us.

Kept by God, kept protected from Satan and his minions.

Then Jesus prays for that to be done.

John 17:17-19

¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Sanctified. This is a word we do not talk about enough in the church. Sanctified means to be set apart, to be declared holy, or consecrated.

It means that as Christians we are to be set apart from the ways of this world, to be different, where there is sin, we are to be holy.

We are to be set apart, made holy, consecrated by God! How?

‘Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.’

By the truth of God’s Word. By his words, his teachings, his commands, from the first word of Genesis to the last word of Revelation.

We are set apart in the world, we are declared holy in this world, we are consecrated in this world, we manifest God in this world, by abiding in the vine, by obeying His commands, by following the teachings of the Scripture even when it goes against the ways of this world.

By applying the Word of God to our lives a little more each day, so that we can be a little more like Jesus every day.

Jesus was sent into the world by God, and Jesus is sending his faithful disciples into the world.

In these last few lines Jesus calls for us to be sanctified and to be servants. We are not to be sanctified just for our own salvation, just for our own well-being, instead we are sanctified to act as disciples.

Disciples, that have the peace and joy of God in our lives as we go forth in this world.

Disciples, that are sanctified and sent into this world, set apart, holy, and consecrated, acting as the Salt and Light of God's Word, manifesting the glory, mercy, and love of God to a lost and broken world.

Let us pray,

For Grace

We ask not of you, O Father,
 silver and gold,
 honor and glory,
 nor the pleasures of the world.
 Grant us grace to seek your Kingdom
 and your righteousness,
 and give us what we need for body and life.
 Behold, O Lord, our desire.
 May it be pleasing in your sight.
 We present our petition to you through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 who is at your right hand,
 our mediator and Advocate,
 through whom you sought us that we might seek you;
 your Word, through whom you made us and all things;
 your only Son, through whom you call us to adoption,
 who intercedes with you for us,
 and in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge;
 to him, with you and the Holy Spirit,
 be all honor, praise, and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Source: Augustine of Hippo

Hymn: "Because He Lives"

God sent His son,
 They called Him Jesus;
 He came to love,
 Heal and forgive;
 He lived and died
 To buy my pardon,
 An empty grave is there
 To prove my Savior lives!

Chorus
 Because He lives,
 I can face tomorrow!
 Because He lives,
 All fear is gone.
 Because I know
 He holds the future,
 And life is worth the living,
 Just because He lives!

How sweet to hold
 A newborn baby,
 And feel the pride
 And joy he brings;
 But greater still
 The calm assurance:
 This child can face
 Uncertain days because He Lives!
 [Chorus]

And then one day,
 I'll cross the river,
 I'll fight life's final
 War with pain;
 And then, as death
 Gives way to victory,
 I'll see the lights of glory
 And I'll know He lives!
 [Chorus]

Invitation to Offering

Offering Prayer

Closing Hymn #352: "And Can It Be That I Should Gain"

And can it be that I should gain
 God's riches through the Saviour's blood?

Died he for me, who caused his pain?
 For me, who him to death pursued?
 Amazing love! how can it be
 that thou, my God, should'st die for me?
 Amazing love! how can it be
 that thou, my God, should'st die for me?

He left his Father's throne above,
 so free, so infinite his grace,
 emptied himself of all but love,
 and bled for Adam's helpless race.
 'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
 for, O my God, it found out me.
 'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
 for, O my God, it found out me.

No condemnation now I dread;
 Jesus, and all in him, is mine;
 alive in him, my living head,
 and clothed in righteousness divine,
 bold I approach the eternal throne,
 and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.
 Bold I approach the eternal throne,
 and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Pastoral Prayer

All knowing Father
 We gather in this season of remembrance,
 grateful that you hold each one of us in your memory and your mystery,
 now and for all the time to come.
 Today, we remember all those who have served to uphold justice and freedom
 in the wars of the last century,
 in conflicts of our own generation,
 and in peacekeeping and relief efforts around the world.

Today especially we pray for those who have died in this service
 and for those who carry scars on body and soul, having returned from conflict.
 We remember their courage
 and we pray for their families who still ache for lives surrendered at a great cost.

Father, we remember before you today the victims of conflict,
 hiding in forgotten corners of the world, longing for safety and peace.
 Especially we pray for people in Israel and Gaza who fear for their lives and their future.
 We also remember the victims of violence in our own country,
 still fearful and uncertain about what the future holds for them.
 Give us the mind to pray for their protection and recovery.

Father, we remember those around us who struggle day by day;
 those who must cope with the fear of forgetting those who matter most to them,
 and those who face the fear of being forgotten.
 Help us remember to reach out in comfort and support
 so that no one is forgotten.

Father, we remember those around us who carry on
 under the burden of sad and hard memories;
 those weighed down by grief, disappointment, anger, pain, and loss.
 Inspire us to offer a listening ear and an understanding heart whenever we can.

Father of all of eternity,
 help us to remember you day by day.
 Keep us prepared to shine the light of your gospel into the dark corners of this world
 so that hope is renewed, and need is exposed
 for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
 as the one true living God and in whose name we pray. **AMEN.**

Benediction

May God the Father bless you,
 God the Son heal you,
 God the Holy Spirit give you strength.
 May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul,
 and bring you safely to his heavenly country, where he lives and reigns for ever and
 ever. **Amen.**