

## Podcast

24<sup>th</sup> May 2020

John 17:1-11



## Music

### Welcome

Hello, and welcome to this week's worship podcast from New Kilpatrick Parish Church. I am Jeanette Peel, the probationary minister, at New Kilpatrick. It is good to be with you, and if this is your first time with us, especially those who have dialed in by phone, then a special welcome. Over the next twenty minutes or so we can spend time in each other's company albeit not in the same place at the same time. So welcome.

It has been, and continues to be, a strange period when the things we were so accustomed to have changed. Thankfully, technology has allowed us to stay connected, both within our own churches, and people all over the world. We have a chance to explore and listen and engage in ways and with people that we might never have explored previously.

And as these new ways become embedded, we are maybe getting a sense of who we are and where our priorities lie. The old has temporarily gone, we are moving through this unknown wilderness experience and still not quite sure what we are going to meet at the other side. The disciples and followers of Jesus went through a similar time after Jesus' death and resurrection and then had to find a new way to walk alongside others without him being physically present. And they did.

And today, we look at one of Jesus' prayers in John's Gospel, as he prepares them for what is to come. For a time when it will be different and yet things will still move forward.

### Reading: John 17: 1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup>"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

<sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

## Prayer

Let us quieten our hearts and minds in prayer.

Loving and gracious God, as we worship on this the last Sunday in Easter, we have much to reflect on over this Easter period. In these difficult times we no longer worship in our churches around the world as a faith community just now, but in our own homes, or wherever we may be living. Church has not stopped. Worship has not stopped. They have just moved beyond the walls of a building to new places and new times and sometimes with new people.

Loving God, wherever we worship today, be in our prayers, our listening, our hearts, and make this a time of renewal, a time to reconnect with you, as we move forward through this day. Gracious God, as you forgive and love us, may we use this time to forgive and love others, without condition, without merit of who they are. Just as we are, we come before you now as we say 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 evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever.  
Amen



## Short Reflection

Today is the last Sunday in Easter in the church calendar. It seems strange that we are at this point already as we never had an opportunity to celebrate Easter in church. But time does not stop, especially in a pandemic. Next Sunday is Pentecost, and just as with Easter there will be no traditional church service. Everything will be online and watched and listened to from the more familiar comfort of home or when exercising outside. A new norm is slowly becoming established.

And yet, some things do not change as we find a new way of being. The reading today is commonly known as, 'Jesus prays for his disciples.' It comes after the farewell discourse or speech, in which Jesus prepares his disciples for life without his physical presence. And it makes me wonder how the church, as in the body of the national church, could have prepared more fully for this pandemic. What preparations would have been put in place before the physical and very visible presence of the Church was removed from the community?



As churches, congregations, and ministers in all denominations around the world find their place, and words, in this new online ministry and congregation, the one thing that should be unified is to make God's name known. Jesus talks of how he has been given God's work to do and all that he has and all that he does have been given to him through God. This includes the disciples. Although this cannot be reversed in the same way; this entrusting of all things, makes the Son equal with the

father. 'All mine are yours and yours are mine,' Jesus prays.

It is here we recognise who Jesus is. Jesus has made God's name known, not by asking for a set belief or reciting doctrine or creeds but by giving the disciples God's words. Because Jesus has acted and spoken in God's name or under God's authority, they, the disciples, know God because they know Jesus. It does not mean God has never been known, but we have this revelation of God as father of the son. Everything in Jesus' identity points ultimately to God. Everything.

And this has never changed. It is through reading and understanding and acting out Jesus' words that God is known to us. It was not supposed to be by belief but by recognising the words and deeds said and demonstrated by Jesus and followed through by his followers. Because through Jesus, everything points to God. We, the church, have a unique opportunity in history to make God's name be known. Our buildings are closed. Our meetings, church groups, services have all stopped in the physical sense. But that does not, and should not, mean that God has. There are other ways to meet. Other ways to do what is asked of us. And in doing so we act out Jesus' words and people know God.

The idea of eternal life which John speaks of often is bound up in this. Eternal life is knowing God and the one sent by him, Jesus Christ. Knowing God is life because God is the source of all life. We can only hope that this unified idea of getting to know God through words and deeds is always proclaimed at and demonstrated, whether online or in person. It is here that we make God's name known. Amen

## The Words

Jesus commands us, to love our enemies.

Jesus commands us, to do to others as you would have them do to you.

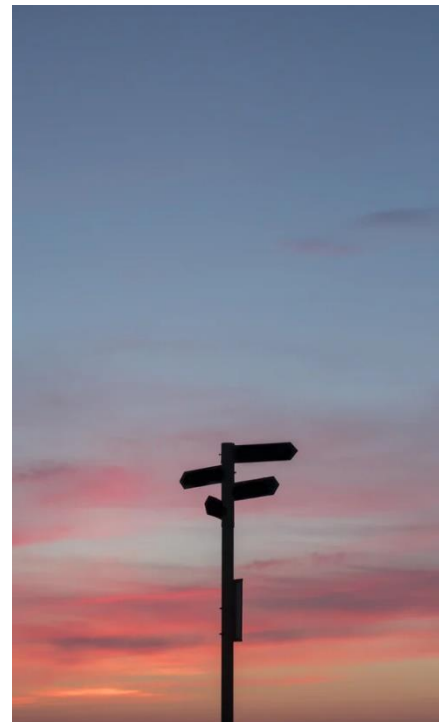
*It is in following Jesus' instructions that we may know God.*

Jesus commands us, give to everyone who begs from you.

Jesus commands us, to be merciful, just as our father in heaven is merciful.

*It is in following Jesus' instructions that we may know God.*

Jesus commands us, do not judge.



Jesus commands us, do not condemn.

*It is in following Jesus' instructions that we may know God.*

Jesus commands us, forgive.

Jesus commands us, pray for those who abuse you.

*It is in following the words and instructions of Jesus that we may know God.*

## Prayer

Let us pray.

Loving God, in what may appear to be a broken and lost world it is easy to think you are no longer here and cannot be found. At times, we do not have the words to express our feelings as they are all tied up in knots and we cannot find the way to unravel them. And yet, that is exactly where you are. In the brokenness, in the feelings and in the knots.

Our communities and friendships have muddled into something new, something different, that hopefully we will take forward. We have discovered who our neighbours are, and what it means to look out for each other.

As we gather, may we be with each other,  
those who are working and cannot find space to just be,  
those struggling with ill-health and worry of what is to come  
their families and friends who cannot be with them and offer reassurance  
those at risk, the young, the vulnerable, the children, women and men  
may we support them in different ways as we can

As we gather, may we be with each other,  
the people in government trying to find the next step  
with all the responsibility that lies upon them  
those who are shielding and in isolation  
when contact is minimal, and anxiety rises  
may we support them in different ways.

And now in a moment of silence, we remember those in our own hearts and minds. We remember then in silence.

May we find comfort and support together, where we recognise you God, in our midst, in all.  
Amen.

## Epilogue

Be still,  
For the presence of the Lord,  
The Holy One, is here.

Be still,  
For the words of the Lord,  
Are in all our hearts and minds.

Be still,  
For the works of the Lord,  
Are actioned in our hands.

Be still,  
For we recognise God,  
In the people of his Words.



### **Benediction**

May we go into this week  
With Jesus' words  
In our hearts and minds.  
May we go into this week  
Prepared to action our faith  
In the smallest of deeds.  
And may the blessing of God the Father,  
Son and Holy Spirit remain with us  
And with all those we love.  
Amen

### **Announcements**

Thank you for the invitation to journey with you today, wherever you may be. It is always a special time where we meet in the imagination that sound offers. If this is your first time with us, then it is a pleasure to be with you. We are back again next week but while we cannot meet *in* church we do meet *as* church, mainly online at [nkchurch.org.uk](http://nkchurch.org.uk) where you can engage with us in different ways. Please keep sending in your kindness week posters so we can add them to hall windows. Check the website for more details.

You can get updated with all the different things happening at New Kilpatrick through the website, on the phone, through the weekly bulletins which are emailed or posted out, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. So please join us on our journey.

And thank you to Kirsteen and Iain Mclean, and Dougal White, who all shared in our time together to make this podcast. So, for now, thank you. Take care and stay safe.

### **Music**