

News letter

4th April 2021

Good Friday 2nd April, service at 9.30am

Reading

Luke 23

Easter Sunday's, 4th April, service at 9:30am

Reading

John 20:1-18

Ps. Andrew Everson will bring us the word this week.



Wishing everyone a blessed Easter

➤ Some Prayers of the people

- Pray for safety on the roads as people travel over the coming Easter weekend to be with family and friends. Pray that the true message of Easter will be received.
- Continue to pray for our country and our government, for good decisions over many difficult problems that come before parliament.
- For countries continuing to deal with outbreaks of covid19, and for countries where there is armed conflict and tragic loss of life.
- Pray for the Barnabas Fund, Open Doors, and Compassion as they reach out across the world to help persecuted Christians who suffer in extremely difficult circumstances for their faith. There are many who are hungry, homeless, and live-in fear, pray that there are people to reach out to them and give help or encouragement.
- Please pray for Dave Barnett and Sam Freney as they lead a translating workshop of 1 Samuel at Ernabella.
- Please pray for Lil and the kids while Dave is away.

Notices

Daylight saving: ends this weekend on Sunday 4th April. Don't forget to turn your clocks back.

Name tags: As our congregation is growing please wear your name tags as this will help people get to know each other and also help with remembering names. Please let Lois or Teresa know if anyone requires a name tag.

End of Month luncheon: There has been some interest shown in resuming the end of month luncheon. In the past we have met on the last Sunday of each month at 12noon at a hotel to have a meal and enjoy extra fellowship. If you are interested in this, please let Lois or Oriel know the week prior to the last Sunday so we can book numbers.

Prayer Chain

The church has a prayer chain for those who need prayer during an emergency or crisis, the Initial contact people are Julie Wylie (87623812) or Julie & Kevin Cooke (87620732, 0428620733).

Please call the contact person and your prayer request will be forwarded on. We encourage you to share any answer to prayer that you feel you can to the prayer chain as encouragement to them.

Mid-Week Bible reading

John 12:20-36 English Standard Version

Some Greeks Seek Jesus

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹ So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honour him.

The Son of Man Must Be Lifted Up

²⁷ "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose, I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰ Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³ He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. ³⁴ So the crowd answered him, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" ³⁵ So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."

When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.

The first question we might ask about this passage is how is Jesus' answer – "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified..." an answer to the Greek people's request to **see Jesus**?

The Greeks say, "We want to see Jesus", and Jesus says (essentially), "That's it, time's up. It's time for me to die!"

Well, clearly the interest from these Greek people was some kind of signal to Jesus that his ministry among the Jewish community was coming to an end. Jesus had come to God's chosen people as the promised Jewish Messiah and the fulfillment of God's promises.

These promises stretched right back to God's original promise to Abraham to make his descendants into a mighty nation and through Abraham and his descendants "all nations will be blessed". (Genesis 18:18)

The prophet Isaiah (42:6) sums up the task that the Jewish people were given as:

“I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles.”

Jesus sees that he himself is the embodiment of this covenant, he is representative Israel taking on this task of obedience to God on the people’s behalf.

Indeed, he takes on the illustration of “light” that Isaiah uses when he says “, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light....³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

But the narrow ministry to the Jewish people is coming to a climax. And the signal that the gospel message will now be given more broadly is the interest shown by the gentiles in Jesus.

Jesus’ reply, in talking of his death is that when he is ‘lifted up’ he will draw all people to himself.

In some way his death (and of course his resurrection) will enable the fulfilment of Israel’s task to bless all the nations. He says, “for this purpose, I have come to this hour.”

This will be when the whole world will “see Jesus”.

Of course, not everyone understood this at the time so he gets questioned on how he could be the Messiah if he were to die because the Messiah will be ruler “forever”. And his understanding of himself as representative of all humanity, “Son of Man”, gets questioned (“Who is this Son of Man?”).

But the resurrection is the answer to the critics. This Messiah does indeed rule forever. And we now have the human being (Son of Man), Jesus Christ, sitting at the right hand of God the Father, giving each of us mere humans direct access to God.

“If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honour him.”

Andrew