

A Service of Holy Communion

Sunday 5th July 2020

The Anglican Parish of Keppel, Central Queensland

1 The priest greets the congregation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

2 A Sentence of Scripture appropriate to the day may be read.

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand. (Romans 5:1–2)

3 A song or a hymn (or two) are sung.

4 This Prayer of Preparation is said

Let us pray.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

5 The Ten Commandments or one of the forms below is used, and the people ask God's forgiveness and the grace to keep his word. *The Two Great Commandments*

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Lord, have mercy on us: and write your law in our hearts by your Holy Spirit.

In penitence and faith let us confess our sins to almighty God.

All kneel. A pause for self-examination may be observed.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed: we have not loved you with our whole heart, we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The priest, or bishop if present, stands and pronounces this Absolution

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith, pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you to do his will, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

8 The priest says the Collect of the Day.

Let us pray.

All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life, and defeat into victory: increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over evil, in the strength of the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

10 The Reading from the New Testament.

1 Peter 3:8 – 4:2

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. ¹⁰ For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; ¹¹ let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of

Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

¹ Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

After the reading, the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

11 The Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 11:15-30

¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear. ¹⁶ “But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates, ¹⁷ “‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ ¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”

²⁰ Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. ²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

After the Gospel, the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

12 The Sermon is preached here.

The full text of the sermon is available at the bottom of this handout.

13 All stand for the Apostles Creed which is said or sung.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come 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.

THE PRAYERS

14 The response

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD’S SUPPER

17 One or more of these (or other suitable verses of Scripture) may be read

Jesus said: Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. (Matthew 11.28-30)

18 This Prayer may be said, all kneeling

Let us pray.

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

19 All stand, and the Greeting of Peace is given by the priest

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE THANKSGIVING

21 The priest says this Prayer of Thanksgiving and Consecration.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

All glory and honour, thanks and praise be given to you at all times and in all places, Lord, holy Father, true and living God. For he is your eternal Word through whom you have created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image.

In your great love you gave him to be made man for us and to share our common life. In obedience to your will your Son our Saviour offered himself as a perfect sacrifice and died upon the cross for our redemption.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin and reconciled us to yourself, our God and Father. He is our great high priest whom you raised from death and exalted to your right hand on high where he ever lives to intercede for us.

Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit and made us a royal priesthood called to serve you for ever.

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful Father, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, and we pray that we who eat and drink them in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit in obedience to our Saviour Christ in remembrance of his death and passion may be partakers of his body and his blood,

He takes the bread into his hands and says

who on the night he was betrayed took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

He takes the cup into his hands and says

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

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

Father, with this bread and this cup, we do as our Saviour has commanded; we celebrate the redemption he has won for us; we proclaim his perfect sacrifice made once for all upon the cross: his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and we look for his coming to fulfil all things according to your will.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

THE COMMUNION

23 The priest may say

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

AFTER COMMUNION

24 The priest may say this or another suitable prayer

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us in this hope that we have grasped; so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your Name.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

29 The priest, or bishop if present, says this

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

30 The deacon may say

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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Attachments:

1. Notices
2. Prayers & Intercessions
3. Sermon outline & text

1. Notices & Announcements

- **Our Church Office** can be called Monday to Friday 9:30am-12:00pm. Please call before turning up. If someone feels that they are not receiving the support they would like, please contact our church office and we will follow them up.
- **For more information** about our church and to find resources to help you in your relationship with God:
 - Our website: keppelanglican.org On our website you will find our services, sermons, helpful videos, our weekly Newsletter (reflection, articles, notices, information).
 - Facebook: [Keppel Anglican](https://www.facebook.com/KeppelAnglican) / YouTube: [Keppel Anglican](https://www.youtube.com/KeppelAnglican).
- **Would you like to be supported?** Join one of our CONNECT groups. Contact our church office for more information.
 - CONNECT Groups through telephone. We will call you weekly, to see how you are doing, & if you want, we can pray with you.
 - CONNECT Groups meeting via ZOOM video calls as a group once a week and look at the bible together and pray together.
- **A new member of our Ministry Team:** Philip and Jessica van't Spyker and their kids Jasper, Tabitha, Otto and Corin will be joining us in July. Philip will take up a position as our Families Minister. See the Church Newsletter for more information. Please pray for the whole family as they go through this time of transition and pray for God to be with them. Their service of commencement will be at St James Church on Friday 17th July at 7pm.
- **We will meet together again** on the 12th July for church at our St James Yeppoon Church. Church Church Emu Park will meet together on 19th July at 3pm for their first service, with a BBQ dinner following.

2. Prayers & Intercessions

There are no notes available this week.

3. Sermon Text

1 Peter 3:8—4:2

Introduction

Have you ever been a stranger? In the movie Bridget Jones' Diary? There's a scene where she arrives at a party in fancy dress. She was proud as punch, dressed as a Playboy bunny. But there was a problem. No one else was in fancy dress. She was setup. Everyone else was in proper evening attire.

Really, what do you do when you find yourself in that position. Personally, I wouldn't have chosen the bunny outfit to begin with.

I once went to a party dressed as a monk. You might think that strange, but it was a birthday party which had a theme of the time of the 1500's.

Everything in its place. Everything has its place in life too. There are ways of doing things.

Intentionally inappropriate

In 1 Peter, Peter speaks about what it means to be intentionally inappropriate. For a 14 year old girl, that might mean wearing a skirt that is unfashionably long. For a teenage boy, that means having the wrong haircut.

But in 1 Peter we are saying it is more than how we look. It is how we behave, and who we are. We are strangers in this world. And not just because heaven is our real home. Peter uses the word "exiles" to describe that.

We really are strangers. We dress in the wrong things – unfashionably. We behave inappropriately and we do the wrong things. And Peter says, "**well done!**" Why? Because God wants us to be different to the world. To act like Jesus wants us to. To speak to one another as Jesus wants us to.

The world, will not be impressed.

God's way

Have a look at our reading. Verse 9 says, "**Do not repay evil with evil, or insult with insult, but with blessing**"

The world says if they do something to you, do it back! An eye for an eye, you might say. But that's the way of the world, not the way of Jesus.

And in vs10-12, we have the quote from Psalm 24. The reason we're not to be like those around us? Christians are to behave differently.

It's more than watching immorality appear with regularity in our newspapers. Often the world agrees that what is in the papers is unacceptable. But Peter is talking about something bigger than this. He's referring to all the norms of society which contradict God's way. And we are to reject those norms.

For example, standing up for truth when it means standing against a friend. That's hard! Or, standing for truth when it means standing up against a powerful person in the community. That's hard!

Or to be like the world and speaking about a person when they are not around. That's the way the world operates, but they are not the way the people of God are to behave.

And gossip? Isn't that standard in churches? We have all the excuses under the sun for why we need to tell each other the sad "**news**" or we can even make it a prayer point.

Here in verse 10, or in James' Epistle we are told about the tongue of a gossip. The gossiping tongue reveals that the person belongs to Satan.

Who do you fear?

But you might say, I keep trying God's way, but the bad guys just kept getting away with it! Or worse, why do I keep suffering when I'm being obedient to God. Well, this feels so true, doesn't it!

In v13 Peter says, "**Who is going to harm you if you do good**" I don't know about you, but I can think of heaps of people who have harmed me for doing what is right. **But that answer really shows my heart.**

I think Peter would say to me, "**Rob, stop being concerned about what other people think**" You're playing to the wrong audience. Let me explain...

In v14 we read, "**DO NOT FEAR WHAT THEY FEAR.**" Those same people who repay evil for evil... They also fear each other. But we have no reason to fear people. What we need to do is set our hearts on Jesus Christ.

So, when we speak the truth and act the way God wants us to... And people slander us, gossip against us, malign us... Do we care what they think, or

what they say? **“Who do you serve?”**, Peter says! I care only what Jesus thinks! (Yes, I know. It might still sting – but it doesn’t stop us.)

Or put another way, what audience are you performing for? **WE SHOULD BE PERFORMING FOR AN AUDIENCE OF ONE.** No ourselves, not our friends, not our peers, not even our minister... but God, and God alone. Doing everything and anything because it pleases God. God alone.

What’s at stake?

So what’s at stake if I perform for others and not for God? A lot! My salvation! Peter says, **“FOR CHRIST DIED FOR SINS ONCE FOR ALL, THE RIGHTEOUS FOR THE UNRIGHTEOUS, TO BRING YOU TO GOD.”** What’s at stake is two-fold.

One, Jesus died so you could serve God – He died to bring you to God – He died so you could be friends with God and serve God. So, as people saved by Jesus, what does it mean if we continue to please people and the world instead of our new master! What a catastrophe!

Secondly, our behaviour represents the gospel. If we behave like the world, then the world sees that people who accept Jesus death are no different to them.

If we are no different to everyone else, then there is no need to investigate the God we believe in. There is no need to care about a God who sends his Son to die for the world. Our behaviour affects the very impact of the gospel.

Noah the stranger

So all this sounds great, But what about when you are on your own. Or if you’re just a small group standing against what is wrong and what is unjust?

Well, we have the example of Noah. Noah is a good example because he and his party were few in number and were saved through the waters of God’s judgement.

It was tough, they were alone, but they trusted God, and he brought them through.

So to you, if you struggle in the face of opposition, wondering if something is wrong because only a few stand with you, then look to the example of Christ. Standing alone against the powers of the world and look also to the

example of Noah. Standing firm and remaining faithful against the world and remember, God vindicates those who truly follow him.

Conclusion: Are you a stranger?

Noah was a stranger in the world. If ever there was one, Noah was it. Building an enormous ark on dry land. It would have been a strange sight. And I am sure when people asked him why he was building the ark, he told them of God's coming judgement...

Friends, we live in an age where being righteous and living God's way is no longer normal, but let me encourage you to be happy with being different because our aim is not to please the world and fit in our aim is to please our Father in Heaven and to see a smile on his face.

It doesn't mean we all need to stand on a soapbox and yell at passers-by. Sometimes it just means behaving the way God wants you too, and that in itself is different enough to make us stand out. But as with Noah, and as with Jesus, our obedience matters to God.

Are you ready to stand up for Jesus in a world that will hate you for it?

Let's pray.