

Service for Week 27th – 3rd May 2026

By Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, help us to follow the way of life as you taught the disciples. To become a disciple ourselves by how we think, by how we live and by how we relate to those around us. To walk faithfully in your way, to the glory of God. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven.....

Amen

Bible Reading John 14:1-14

Jesus said "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among

you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

The first few verses of our reading may be familiar to you because these particular verses from John's gospel are often used in funeral services. They are comforting words that Jesus gives to the disciples to prepare them for his death.

The disciples don't know at that time that Jesus would be arrested, crucified and resurrected so when he talks about going to prepare a place for them and that they know where he is going, they don't understand. Jesus

gives Thomas his answer "I am the way and the truth and the life.'

This is really the essence, the meaning of what following Christ is about. It is more than just believing that Jesus Christ was from God and of God. It is accepting the truth about the very nature of God as revealed by Jesus in his life and his teachings as we learn from the New Testament scriptures. But most importantly it is living our lives by the standards that Jesus set out for us.

Those standards that Jesus lived by himself are hard to follow. In the words of the beatitudes Jesus told us that God blesses the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who seek righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted.

From the gospels we know that Jesus did not discriminate, he was accepting of people from all backgrounds and walks of life. He spoke to the woman at the well living with someone who was not her husband and he went to the house of Zacchaeus the tax collector. He healed and comforted the sick and the disabled. Jesus and his disciples worked on what was the Sabbath, a day of rest, and he mixed with people considered to be sinners.

Jesus told us to love our neighbors, and explained that our neighbors were anyone who needed our help. He said

that we should love our enemies, despite what they may be doing to us. Jesus told us to forgive them just as God forgives us for our sins and the mistakes we make in life; however bad they may be.

It is hard to follow his way -the way of Christ but if we do then Christ is in us. He gives us purpose and brings meaning to our lives, whatever our circumstances. Jesus said 'anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. They will do even greater things.' This encourages us to reach out and care for those around us.

For ourselves, living with Christ within us means overcoming our fear in difficult circumstances, and finding strength from God. It means finding the peace that only God can bring when we may be suffering from depression, serious illness or coping with disability and the marvelous thing is that our relationship with Christ is eternal- it is forever.

Jesus tells us to ask him for what we need for others and for ourselves "You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it". We do that in our thoughts and our prayers.

Amen

Closing Prayer

Loving God, help me to keep our eyes on you, knowing you will lead me safely through the obstacles in my path. **Amen.**