

Glynde Lutheran Church

a multi-cultural community of faith



Church@Home
Sunday 14 May 2023
Easter 6, Year A
10.30am Worship Service Order

SONG: Promise Keeper

<https://youtu.be/H8XivMN3Ado>

**Your vow's a covenant unbroken
You've made it known through history
Your love will never be unfaithful
Never walk out on me
Never walk out on me**

**I have no reason to doubt You
Who You've been You'll always be
And though the future's still unfolding
With everything I've seen
How could I not believe**

***You are a promise keeper
Your word will never fail
My heart can trust You Jesus
I won't be overwhelmed
My eyes are gonna see
Miracles and victories
You are a promise keeper
And Your word will never fail***

**You will return all that's been stolen
There's nothing that You can't redeem
And though the story's still unfolding
With everything I've seen
How could I not believe**

Bridge

**I'll see Your goodness in the land of the living
I'll see Your goodness right here right now
You know the ending before the beginning
I know that You have worked all things out
(REPEAT)**

CCLI Song # 7156403

Ethan Hulse | Hope Darst | Jonathan Smith

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**WELCOME
WE GREET EACH OTHER
IN THE NAME...**

SONG: Sinking deep

<https://youtu.be/q8ZBH3mcb-o?t=5>

**Standing here in Your presence
In a grace so relentless
I am won by perfect love
Wrapped within the arms of heaven
In a peace that lasts forever
Sinking deep in mercy's sea**

Chorus

**I'm wide awake drawing close
Stirred by grace and all my heart is Yours
All fear removed
I breathe You in I lean into Your love
Oh Your love**

**When I'm lost You pursue me
Lift my head to see Your glory
Lord of all so beautiful
Here in You I find shelter
Captivated by the splendour of Your face
My secret place**

Bridge

**Your love so deep is washing over me
Your face is all I seek You are my ev'rything
Jesus Christ You are my one desire
Lord hear my only cry to know You all my life
(REPEAT)**

WE CONFESS, GOD FORGIVES

Heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned against you in our outward actions and also in our secret thoughts and desires.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have served ourselves and sought to further our own interests instead of serving others.

We are truly sorry for our sins.

Heavenly Father, forgive us for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ.

Help us in our weakness, strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life, and fill us with your generosity toward others.

Amen.

We are guilty of having done many things wrong in God's sight. But the good news is that Jesus invites us with His words – "Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest". We are able to freely lay all of our sins before Jesus on the cross. He has stepped in to take our punishment.

Therefore by His authority and command, I assure you that your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SHORT PRAISE SONG: I lift my hands

https://youtu.be/QeOm4_YOd4A?t=196

I lift my hands to believe again

You are my refuge

You are my strength

As I pour out my heart

These things I remember

You are faithful God

You're faithful God forever

CCLI Song # 5869884

Chris Tomlin | Louie Giglio | Matt Maher

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THEME OF THE DAY

John 14:18

Jesus said to his disciples, "I will not leave you as orphans".

BIBLE READING

[John 14:15-21](#)

(Begin: 'Jesus said to his disciples:')

CREEDAL SONG: This I believe

<https://youtu.be/FtUNQpu2b7Q>

**Our Father everlasting
The all creating One
God Almighty
Through Your Holy Spirit
Conceiving Christ the Son
Jesus our Saviour**

***I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus***

**Our judge and our defender
Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness
You rose in glorious life
Forever seated high**

Chorus

**I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord
I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord**

Chorus

***For I believe in the Name of Jesus
For I believe in the Name of Jesus***

***I believe in life eternal
I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion
And in Your holy Church
I believe in the resurrection
When Jesus comes again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus***

CCLI Song # 7018338

Ben Fielding | Matt Crocker

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TODAY'S MESSAGE

John 14:18

Jesus said to his disciples, "I will not leave you as orphans".

Orphans the world over are a tragedy of tremendous proportions. According to UNICEF there are 153 million orphan children worldwide with over five and half thousand becoming orphans every day. Whether in refugee camps in Africa, India, Eastern Europe, Ukraine, Russia, or South East Asia, these figures are mind blowing especially knowing the tragic affect that the loss of parents has on children and how this loss shapes the rest of their lives.

Even a child left without parents here in our country, although infinitely far better off than those in the countries I have just mentioned, is affected in ways that we don't fully understand. Children who lose their parents lose their security and are vulnerable and powerless physically, emotionally, and psychologically. The love and care given to them by others will, in time, make up for this but unfortunately some children never get over their loss. Some never get over the psychological wounds that comes with being an orphan. It's as if they have lost their story, their roots, their history, their identity, their sense of direction.

In the light of this, the words of Jesus take on a special meaning. "I will not leave you orphaned" Jesus says to his disciples. Or this could be translated, "I

will not leave you desolate, deserted, alone, abandoned, unloved, futureless”.

The disciples knew Jesus in a very close and personal way. They had walked together, talked together, eaten together, shared good and bad times together. They had been constant companions of Jesus. They felt confident and safe in the presence of Jesus.

When they experienced doubt, pain and suffering, they felt Jesus understood what was happening to them.

When they were filled with joy and happiness or overcome with sadness and sorrow, they felt secure in the knowledge that Jesus experienced the same emotions and feelings as they did.

When they were hungry, Jesus fed them and a great crowd with a few loaves and fish.

When they were in danger on the sea, Jesus was nearby to rescue them.

When they witnessed the grief that death brought into their lives, Jesus was at hand to comfort and raise the dead to life.

You see there is a kind of fatherly or perhaps brotherly relationship between Jesus and the disciples.

Jesus could see that his disciples were dependent on him. In fact, Jesus occasionally addressed them as “little children”. In the presence of Jesus they were like “little children” who relied on his love and comfort.

When Jesus warned the disciples that he will no longer be with them he had to quickly assure them not to be worried and upset, but to trust him. Now if that's how they felt before Jesus' death imagine how alone and abandoned they must have felt after Jesus' death on the cross. Under the shadow of the cross, Jesus knew that they will feel like orphans—lost, without hope, helpless, powerless, uncertain about their future and confused. So he makes them a promise:

"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth...I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you....Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:16,18,27).

Note this unique way Jesus reminds us that we will always have a home and a family. He says, *“I am **in** the Father, and you are **in** me, just as I am **in** you (John 14:20).*

This is a good passage to pause and meditate on. Simply what Jesus is expressing is the very close and intimate relationship between himself and the Father, himself and his disciples and his disciples and God. That tiny word “in” describes a special bond, a unique oneness. A family relationship.

Those who believe in Jesus already have the Holy Spirit. God the Father has sent you the Holy Spirit through the Son. He did this for you at baptism. Because of God’s work for us in baptism you have a place of belonging in the family of God, by which you are no longer orphans, for God our Father has made you heirs with Jesus his Son. We are sons and daughters together with the Son. And since that is the case for every person who is in Christ then we are all a part of that Triune God's loving, supporting family. We are all brothers and sisters joined together in God's family, the church.

In this family God the Father continues to give you the Holy Spirit, through the Son, who meets you in the word, the scriptures. Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit continually comes to us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we are given a new direction, a new future and a new life.

This new life is one in which we will always have a home. We will always have a loving family—God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These words of comfort carry the message that we won’t ever be orphans—we will know exactly who we are and where we belong.

True enough Satan will always try to break up that togetherness we have. He just loves to drive wedges of doubt, anger, hostility, and jealousy, either between us and God, or between one another in his family. He will constantly tempt us to sin and break the bond and put up barriers between the members of the family, and break apart from it. But that’s not what God has planned for any of us.

God wants no one to feel like an orphan. When Jesus says to us “*I will not leave you as orphans*” he means that we belong to the Father, adopted and claimed through Jesus the Son. We are loved by the Father. We are forgiven by the Son.

When there are members of the family who are feeling like an orphan because we have had a falling out with someone, as a member of this special family, it becomes our responsibility to make amends, whether it was our fault or not.

When there is a member of the family who is feeling like an orphan—lonely, scared, uncertain because they are facing illness and even death—as a member of this special family, it becomes our responsibility to pass on the love and care that we have received from our heavenly Father.

When there are members of the family who are feeling like orphans—feeling unloved, needing a guiding hand, wanting someone to know their pain—as a member of this special family, it becomes our responsibility to be a brother and sister to that person and let them see the love of our heavenly parent through us.

When there are members of this special family who are feeling like orphans, needing someone to provide them with basic essentials and to empathise with them in their circumstances, it becomes our responsibility to be a brother and sister to that person and let them see in us the love of our heavenly Father as we meet those needs.

Jesus' words need to become our words to one another as people of God's family *"I will not leave you as an orphan"*, as we reflect the love and care of God into the lives of the people around us. Let Jesus inspire us to say to our fellow brothers and sisters, *"I will not leave you desolate, feeling deserted, alone, abandoned, unloved, futureless"*.

At the 400 metre race at the 1992 summer Olympics a young Englishman, Derek Redmond was hungry to win a gold medal after being forced to withdraw from the previous Olympics because of injury. However, shortly after the start of the race, he popped his right hamstring. All the other runners continued the race leaving him like an orphan alone on the track. Amazingly Redmond got back up and started hopping towards the finish line. The other runners had all finished the race in a matter of seconds. Redmond, in tears, slowly and laboriously kept hopping. It looked as if he would fall any moment.

Suddenly, a man appeared beside Derek. It was his father. He had run down from the stands and pushed his way through the security guards to reach his son. Redmond's father put his arm around his son and let him cry on his shoulder. Then, with his father holding him up, Derek hobbled to the finish line and then he hopped over the line to finish the race.

There's a word of hope for you and me, to help us finish the race of life. It is God's own word. When we are feeling like orphans to run the race of life in this world—a race we cannot run by our own strength—we have a Father who gives us his strength to keep on going, a Saviour who walks beside us and the Spirit who comforts us, and strengthens us in faith, pointing us to everything Jesus said and still speaks, enabling us to cross the finishing line.

We are not abandoned because we have a God who loves us. He says to each of us personally and individually, "I will not leave you as orphans". Amen.

SONG: The power of your love

https://youtu.be/H9_0jiO5ZRM

**Lord I come to You
Let my heart be changed, renewed
Flowing from the grace
That I've found in You.
And Lord I've come to know
The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away by the power of Your love**

Chorus:

**Hold me close
Let Your love surround me
Bring me near
Draw me to Your side
And as I wait
I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
In the power of Your love**

**Lord unveil my eyes
Let me see You face to face
The knowledge of Your love
As You live in me
Lord renew my mind
As Your will unfolds in my life
In living every day in the power of Your love.**

Chorus:

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray

**Heavenly Father,
you have loved us and given us your Spirit
to live within us.
Help us, through your Spirit,
to do your will and show your love to others.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Call to prayer

Our Lord Jesus promised that the Father would send us his Spirit. In the power of the Spirit, let us pray with confidence to the Father for all our needs.

The regular response, OR:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
come and make your home with us.

Suggested intercessions

- * for the church, that it would love Jesus and keep his word
- * for those who have not yet heard the gospel
- * for the nations and rulers of the earth
- * for our city/town and all who live and work here
- * for those who are troubled and afraid
- * for those who are sick and desire healing
- * for those who suffer for what is right

Concluding prayer

Heavenly Father, through the Spirit of your Son, may we remain in your word so that you will make your home with us. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever.**

Amen.

FAREWELL – BENEDICTION

SONG: One thing remains

<https://youtu.be/isz0uiAWTfE>

**Higher than the mountains that I face
Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant in the trial and the change
One thing, remains
One thing, remains**

Chorus

***Your love never fails, never gives up
Never runs out on me
Your love never fails, never gives up
Never runs out on me
Your love never fails, never gives up
Never runs out on me***

**On and on and on and on it goes
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I never, ever, have to be afraid
One thing remains
One thing remains**

Chorus

**In death, In life, I'm confident and
covered by, the power of Your great love
My debt is paid, there's nothing that
Can separate my heart from Your great love**

Chorus

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