

Sunday Communion Service

3 April 2022 (Lent 5)

This Sunday communion service is mainly prepared by Alan Keast, one of our lay preachers and for the communion liturgy, by the minister who had been in self-isolation. Thanks to Jenny Keast for the scripture reading, Jenny Warren for the prayers of the people, musicians, PA, Sunday School

helpers and the elders who serve the communion table. We can worship because of their faithful servanthood that brings life to our church life.



Acknowledgement for the First Peoples

From before recorded time, the Eora Nation cared for this land. We praise the Creator for the beauty of this Land and honour those who have offered themselves in tending it. We acknowledge the Elders and communities of the Walloo-metta People who have told the sacred stories and nurtured faithfulness to the Creator. We ask God's blessing on those who continue to work for the healing and restoration of this Land and Her Communities.

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens.

Praise Him from the skies.

Praise Him all his angels!

Praise him all the armies of heaven.

Praise him sun and moon!

Praise him all you twinkling stars!

Praise him skies above.

Praise him vapours above the clouds.

**Let every created thing give praise to the Lord,
for he issued his command and they came into being.**

He set them in place forever and ever.

His decrees will never be revoked. **Amen.**

Hymn: The Great Love of God (Daniel Thambyrajah Niles)

The great love of God is revealed in the son,
who came to this earth to redeem everyone.

That love like a stream flowing clear to the sea
Makes clean every heart that from sin would be free.

It binds the whole world, every barrier it breaks
The hills it lays low and the mountains it shakes.

It's yours, it is ours, O how lavishly giv'n
The pearl of great price and the treasure of heav'n.

Children and Young People Talk Alan Keast

Rules from the principal of a school

- As principal I was part of the structure that made rules about the life of the school. The rules included parents, students, staff and teachers. As well as discipline rules for behaviour issues, I was able to bring in rules for Merit Awards for exemplary behaviour. I had to obey government rules even for things like the animals in the school farm and the safe use of farm, cooking, woodwork and metal work machinery.

One grandmother we know tells her grandchildren that she has RULES for when they visit her house.

- The grandchildren must learn the differences between how they might behave at home and how they **MUST** behave when at Granny's house.

Drivers on the road and travellers interstate and overseas all have rules.

- There are rules about what items can be brought across state borders or into the country. If you are travelling to South Australia you must declare and put in rubbish bins all fruit and vegetables, there are strict fines if you fail to do so.

You could say everywhere you go there are rules.

GOLDEN RULES: Here are some rules a person wrote up as Golden rules.

If you open it – close it.

If you turn it on – turn it off.

If you move it – put it back.

If it belongs to someone else – get permission to use it.

If you borrow it – return it.

If you break it – admit it.

If you stuff up – clean it up.

If it's none of your business – don't ask

Jesus walking with his disciples: He knew the time was coming when he would return to heaven. He wanted to leave them with some advice that would help them to live in such a way that other people would see them and know they were his disciples. They all knew about the Ten Commandments but Jesus told them he would give them a new commandment.

A NEW COMMANDMENT:

Jesus said, **“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. By this will others know that you are my disciples, because you have love, one for another.”**

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

³¹ When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

³³ “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

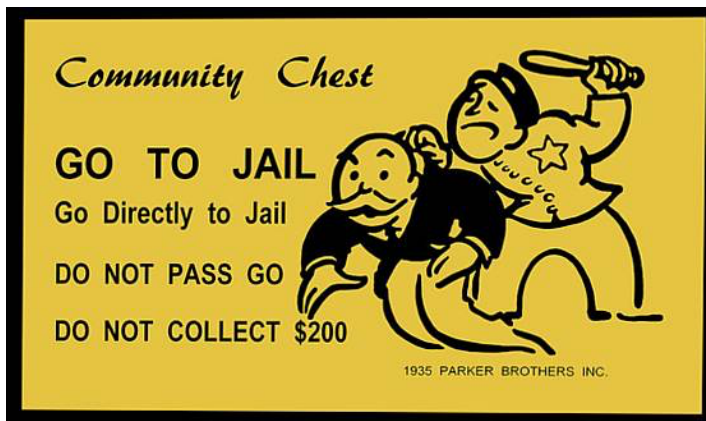
Song: A New Commandments

A new commandment I give unto you
That you love one another as I have loved you,
That you love one another as I have loved you.
By this shall others know that you are my disciples
If you have love one for another.
By this shall others know that you are my disciples
If you have love one for another.

Sermon Alan Keast

First, sign ‘Go Directly to Jail ...’ (next page) and four questions.

- What or who is the author of this command?
- Who does it apply to?
- Is it for me?
- How credible is this comment?



Alan: I will give you a few minutes to chat about this sign and these questions in the group of people near to where you are sitting. See if you can work out answers before I ask some to share their answer with the whole congregation.

Second, sign ‘STOP’ and four questions.



- What or who is the author of this command?
- Who does it apply to?
- Is it for me?
- How credible is this comment?

Alan: I will give you a few minutes to chat about this sign and these questions in the group of people near to where you are sitting. See if you can work out answers before I ask some to share their answer with the whole congregation.

Third, sign from railway carriage - “Alarm signal. To stop the train pull down the chain. Penalty for improper use \$5” and four questions.



- What or who is the author of this command?
- Who does it apply to?
- Is it for me?
- How credible is this comment?

Alan: I will give you a few minutes to chat about this sign and these questions in the group of people near to where you are sitting. See if you can work out answers before I ask some to share their answer with the whole congregation.

Fourth, cartoon picture of Ten Commandments on stone tablets and four questions. \

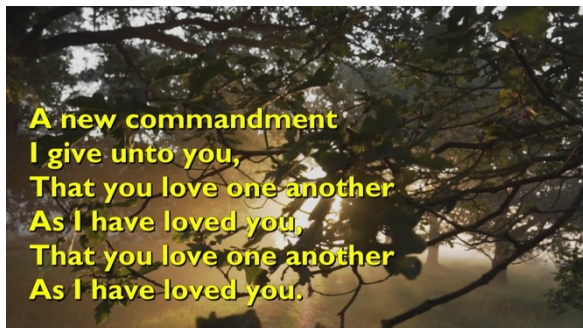


- What or who is the author of this command?
- Who does it apply to?
- Is it for me?
- How credible is this comment?

Alan: I will give you a few minutes to chat about this sign and these questions in the

group of people near to where you are sitting. See if you can work out answers before I ask some to share their answer with the whole congregation.

Fifth, full words “A new commandment...” and four questions.



- What or who is the author of this command?
- Who does it apply to?
- Is it for me?
- How credible is this comment?

Alan: instead of making you work too much I will give you some answers to these four questions.

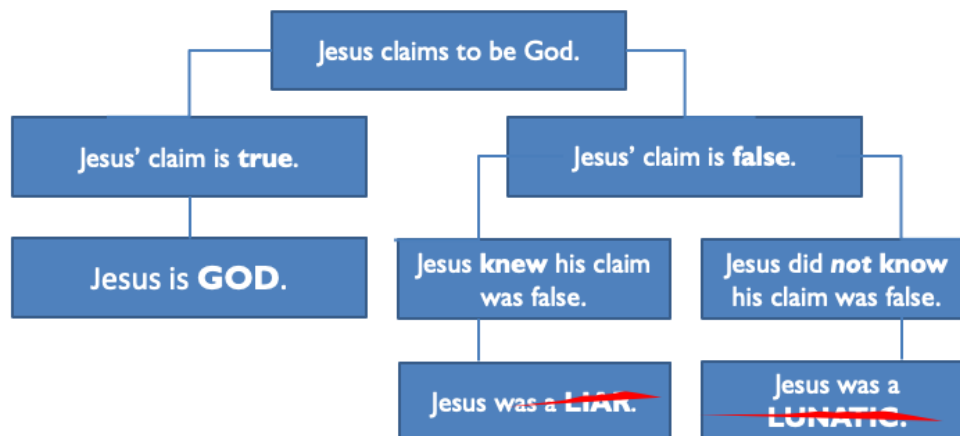
A New Commandment: So if we ask these questions again, where do we end up? Who or what is the author of this rule or command?

Answer – **JESUS**

- Let's jump to the fourth question – how credible is this command?
- The answer depends on how credible you find the character of Jesus.

- C. S. Lewis, the popular writer, Christian apologist and former atheist talked about Jesus being lunatic, liar or Lord.

So who issued this new commandment? ...



C. S. Lewis' quote from *Mere Christianity* (1952):

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say.

A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell.

You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, ...

... but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. ...

Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God.

SO, two questions remain: Who does it apply to? And Is it for me?

One, who does it apply to?

It applied initially to the disciples as Jesus tried to prepare them for the time when he would return to heaven to be with his Father. If we take it in a generic form, then we could say it applies to **mankind**, and the world would be a much better place, especially at this time, if mankind adopted this commandment.

Two, is it for me?

This is one question I cannot answer for you. We can look around our church, our wider community, the history of the church, the stories from the Bible and some of the great Christian men and women we have talked about over the years to see how they answered “YES” to this question.

But it is your choice how you answer if this new commandment is for you.

Prayers of the People Jenny Warren

Our Father in Heaven.

We thank you for all your love and blessings everyday. Thank you for coming and showing us who you are, and how much you love us through the Glory of Jesus Christ. We ask for your forgiveness of our sins and that you can have mercy and patience with us as we grow to be in likeness of Jesus.

Heavenly Father, today we pray for your divine intervention to cease the flooding here in Australia. We thank you for the minimal loss of lives, which are of most importance. May those affected cling to you Lord and that the

realisation sets in that you Lord are all that matters and not the items lost. Please comfort and be with the families of those who have lost lives. We know that material items can be replaced, please help those who have lost their homes to have reassurance in you that through you these homes can be replaced. We ask you to give all those affected the strength and courage to continue through this difficult time with your spirit of hope. We pray that the character of Jesus will be present through the work of those helping their neighbours and strangers. May this disaster reflect the love of Jesus through the kindness and help of others. Please bless all that have taken the time to help those affected, and your name praised at all times.

Lord, we pray for the horrendous war between Ukraine and Russia. We pray for the leaders of these countries to be filled with the spirit of peace and not dictated by the enemy. We pray that any decisions that are made in this war to be the will of you Heavenly Father and not the will of the enemy. Please bring peace to them and end this war, Father. We pray for you to protect the innocent lives there.

Lord, we ask you to heal all those who are affected by Covid-19 and/or the vaccine, please ease their pain and symptoms and bring all to good health again. Bless the home of Seungjae, Grace, Heather, Joshua, and Daniel our wonderful church leaders whom we are so grateful for, bring good health to all our family in Christ.

We ask for your blessings for our Confirmation candidates, Bianca Lee, Oscar Lee, Daniel Yeon and Ashley Han and their companions Lenny Lee, Justin Han, Alan and Jenny Keast. We ask that you guide their growth of faith in Christ and knowledge of becoming a baptized member of the church.

Please protect your children far and wide and keep us all close to you Father. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Dedication of the Offering:

The offering will be used for the congregation's continuing mission and ministry in these changing times. Please make your offering through a Bank Deposit or a personal cheque whichever is convenient to you.

Account Name: Boronia Park Uniting Church

BSB: 634-634

Account: 100023784

Reference: Offering

Mail to: Mrs. Robyn Harvey

96a Champion Rd. Gladesville NSW 2111

Please contact Robyn Harvey, Treasurer on 0418 783 290 or robyn.49@bigpond.net.au for more information about how to make Direct Debit.

Holy Communion

A question that we might meditate on during joining the communion table either at home or at church: *How might the Holy Spirit be moving you to join with others to respond to problems in your family, neighbourhood, community or the world?*

THE INVITATION

Dear friends, we are going deeper into Lent with Jesus, our Lord.
He is our pardon, our healing, and our peace!

We will suffer the trial with him, resisting evil ones.
With him, we will walk the path to life.

But come first to the table where there is food for the journey.
With hearts full of joy we come, giving thanks to God, our maker,
and offering our praise!

COMMUNION SONG

Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.

From the Taizé Community

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We are right to praise you, faithful God!

You answer sin with grace;
you guide our wayward steps toward home.
You are repairing for the broken-hearted,
safety for the poor, belonging for the outcast,
strength for the weak,
and pardon for the sinner.
You reveal your kindness in every sorrow,
your mercy even in death.

All your creatures see your works;
they sing your steadfast love.
We too declare your wonder and grace
as with angels and saints we sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed, the One who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest.**

Now, O God, we remember Jesus.

Silence

He fasted and prayed; he was tempted and tried.
He relied on you for everything.

He was obedient to you and scorned by the powers of this world.
He confounded the arrogant and gave hope to the humble.
He was betrayed and deserted.
He died between thieves and was buried in a borrowed grave.
You gave him new life.
He lives even now, our healer and friend.

He loved us well, loved us to the end, and loves us still.
Even on the night of betrayal, he ate supper with his friends.

Holy Spirit, come!
Make all things new.

Hands upon the bread and cups.

Bless this bread which you have given and human hands have made.
Let it become for us the bread of life.

Bless also this cup, fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
Let it become for us the cup of salvation.

Extend hands towards the congregation.

Bless us also who eat and drink, that in this sharing we may know the living
Christ who is with us now, and to the end of the age.

Nourish us by these gifts to be willing servants of your world
until Christ comes back, and every creature beholds it.

We pray in the name of Jesus,
who taught us to say:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

我們在天上的父，
願人都尊祢的名為聖，
하늘에 계신 우리 아버지，
아버지의 이름을 거룩하게 하시며，

your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

願祢的國降臨，
願祢的旨意行在地上，
如同行在天上。

아버지의 나라가 오게 하시며,
아버지의 뜻이 하늘에서와 같이
땅에서도 이루어지게 하소서.

Give us today our daily bread.

我們日用的飲食 今日賜給我們，
오늘 우리에게 일용할 양식을 주시고，

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

免我們的債
如同我們免了人的債
우리가 우리에게 잘못한 사람을
용서하여 준 것같이 우리 죄를 용서하여 주시고，

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

不叫我們遇見試探，
救我們脫離兇惡，
우리를 시험에 빠지지 않게 하시고
악에서 구하소서.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever.

因為國度，權柄，榮耀，
全是祢的，直到永遠。
나라와 권능과 영광이
영원히 아버지의 것입니다.

Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD

The minister picks up bread and break it.

We break bread together,
and we become the living body of Christ.

Pick up cup.

We share the cup together
and we become agents of God's grace.

Hold bread and cup together.

Come to the table this meal is ready,
no matter our faith or lack of it,
our courage or fears,
our capacity to love a little or a lot,
God desires our company here.

**All: Together we are becoming the body of Christ.
Drinking and be renewed by the living Christ.**

SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

All is prepared so please come!

This morning, Holy Communion is served by four faithful leaders of the congregation. So, you will receive both together. And then eat and drink with your faithful prayer.

If joining from wherever you are, eat bread and drink from your own cup with thanks and faithful prayer. What you have this moment is the same thing that your fellow Christians have wherever they are placed.

Eat, drink and remember – the body of Christ.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Minister: Let us give thanks!

All: Thank you, merciful God,
for gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die,
for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends,
for the splendours of creation,
and for the mission of justice
you have made our own.
Give us the gifts of this holy communion —
oneness of heart, love for neighbours,
forgiveness of enemies,
the will to serve you every day,
and life that never ends.

In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Song: God Has Spoken by His Prophets (G. W. Briggs)

God has spoken by his prophets, spoken his unchanging word
Each from age to age proclaiming God the one, the righteous Lord
In the world's despair and turmoil, one firm anchor holds us fast
God is king, his throne eternal, God the first and God the last.

God has spoken by Christ Jesus, Christ the everlasting son
Brightness of the Father's glory, with the Father ever one.
Spoken by the word incarnate, God from God ere time began
Light from light to earth descending, God revealed as Son of Man.

God is speaking by his Spirit, speaking to our hearts again,
In the age-long word expounding, God's own message, now and then.
Through the rise and fall of nations, one sure faith yet standing fast
God still speaks, his word unchanging, God the first and God the last.

Benediction

The blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon us and remain with us always.
Amen.

Sung Blessing

May the Feet of God Walk with You

May the feet of God go with you
And his hand hold you tight
May the eye of God rest on you
And his ear hear you cry.
May the smile of God be for you
And his breath give you life
May the child of God grow in you
And his love bring you home.

Mary Louise Bringle

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