



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 17th May 2026

compiled by Alison Morgan - Local Preacher

Glorify My Name

Glory to God in the highest.

Glory, glory, glory.

Glory to God the Father.

Glory, glory, glory,

Glory to Jesus the Son.

Glory, glory, glory.

Glory to the Holy Spirit.

Glory to God in the Highest.

Today the seventh Easter Sunday, we sing hymn no. 14 in Mission Praise

1] All heaven declares
The glory of the risen Lord;
Who can compare
With the beauty of the Lord?
For ever He will be
The Lamb upon the throne;
I gladly bow the knee,
And worship Him alone.

2] I will proclaim
The glory of the risen Lord,
Who once was slain
To reconcile man to God
For ever You will be
The Lamb upon the throne;
I gladly bow the knee,
And worship You alone.

Noel (b.1956) & Tricia Richards (b.1960)

Let us pray

Lord of all glory, we come before you
seeking your wisdom, that we may glorify you through our thinking;
Seeking your love, that we may glorify you through our emotions;
Seeking your strength, that we may glorify you at all times;
Seeking your perseverance, that we may glorify you in all places.
Show us how to live, that our lives shine with your glory,
And those who encounter us may know you and that you are at work in your world.

God of majesty and might,
Your glory shines throughout the universe;
From the highest heaven to the deepest sea;
In all the creatures you have made;
In the seasons that shape our living.
Your glory shines through who you are and through what you do.
The power of your glory touches your creation and exalts it.
To you we offer our worship;
To you we offer our praise;
Before you we come in adoration.

When our actions are not loving, and we think of just ourselves –

Your name is not glorified.

Forgive us, God of Glory.

When our words bring hurt to others and we do not even notice –

Your name is not glorified.

Forgive us, God of Glory.

When the way we live is selfish and we find no time for you –

Forgive us, God of Glory.

When we do not see or reveal your love –

Your name is not glorified.

Forgive us, God of Glory.

Forgive and renew us,

And let your glory be seen in our lives. Amen

Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven,

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us,

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory.

Forever and ever Amen.

The reading today is from John Chapter 17 verses 1 - 11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you have given me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.'

Reflection

On this last Sunday of the Easter season, we look both backwards and forwards. We have heard about Jesus' post-resurrection appearances to his disciples; we have gloried in his ascension to heaven; we have received hints of the coming Spirit, the Paraclete (helper, advocate, or comforter, sent by Jesus to guide and support believers) and next week we will celebrate the birth of the new church going forward in mission with the gifts of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

This time for the disciples is a mix of fear and possibility. As they head off into the unknown, life without Jesus, their leader who has challenged and nurtured them, there is much to be afraid of and much to be excited about. But today, we pause. We pause for a moment to hear the prayer Jesus prayed for his disciples, the prayer we claim as his prayer for us.

Jesus' final words are a prayer for himself and a prayer for us, for his disciples. This is a prayer that the disciples overhear, rather than falling asleep in the garden or running away. This prayer tells us so much about who God is in Jesus Christ. Jesus prays for God's presence in the world for us, he prays for us to know each other and know God as he knows us and knows God.

This is his definition of eternal life. And it's a different definition of eternal life than what we are used to. Eternal life is not postponed, it's here and now. It's fundamentally defined by relationship. Not by salvation or full subscription to a set of values, but by relationships, with God and each other.

We have all asked the question: what can I do to get eternal life? People asked Jesus that question all through his ministry and here in John he offers an answer. But it does not look like the answer we expect. Here is another example of where God's ideas are very different from our ideas.

Yes, Jesus does set out some boundaries, but they are all about relationships. And this is eternal life, he says, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Eternal life is knowing God and knowing one another, that we may be one, as God and Christ are one.

So, what does it mean to know God? Knowing God is an experience that draws us into a new reality in which the new order will be shaped eternally by God's vision for love and justice and service, in relationships and communities right now.

How do we know that we know God? Knowing God will be evident when we obey the singular commandment in this gospel. Jesus tells his disciples that they should love one another as I have loved you.

Jesus is showing us that God is always drawing us towards a relationship with God.

But in most ways, we live in a very different time than the disciples in John's gospel. We can't fully understand their choices and actions because most of us Western Christians do not know what it is like to be a persecuted minority. Jesus' call for unity reminds us that we are ONE with them and we must work against intolerance and hatred, wherever we see it lived out.

At a time when divisions of so many kinds threaten our nation and our world, Jesus' prayer that we may be one is striking and shows us who God is. When Jesus prays for us, he does so out of love and care and a desire for us to be one. As the story of Jesus in John's gospel comes to an end, and we look toward the stories of the early church in Acts, let's remember the beginning: In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. Jesus is the fullest picture we have of God. God has spoken a word into the world: a word of unity, of life, of love. That word is Jesus.

Let us pray

We bring before God our concerns for our world:

Where there is war, we pray for peace;

where there is sickness, we pray for health;

where there is despair, we pray for hope.

We pray that you would be active in health care:

In the work of doctors and dentists, psychiatrists and psychologists, nurses and administrators, pharmacists and researchers.

Guide our activity in the church:

May we find ways to grow; may we always honour you; may we serve our communities.

We hold in your love those whom we love:

Those who are sick; those who are sorrowful; those who need guidance and direction.

Cast all your anxiety on him
Because he cares for you.

Come to us, God of glory.
Hear us, heal us and shine through our lives. Amen

Let us sing hymn 274 Mission Praise

1] I hear the sound of rustling in the leaves of the trees,
The spirit of the Lord has come down on the earth.
The Church that seemed in slumber has now risen from its knees
And dry bones are responding with the fruits of new birth.
O this is now a time for declaration,
The Word will go to all men everywhere,
The Church is here for healing of the nations,
Behold the day of Jesus drawing near.

***My tongue will be the pen of a ready writer,
And what the Father gives to me I'll sing
I only want to be His breath,
I only want to glorify the King.***

2] And all around the world the body waits expectantly,
The promise of the Father is now ready to fall,
The watchmen on the tower all exhort us to prepare,
And the Church responds – a people who will answer the call.
And this is not a phase which is passing,
It's the start of an age that is to come;
And where is the wise man and the scoffer?
Before the face of Jesus they are dumb.

My tongue will be the pen of a ready writer

3] A body now prepared by God and reading for war,
The prompting of the Spirit is our word of command.
We rise, a mighty army, at the bidding of the Lord,
The devil's see and fear, for their time is at hand.
And Children of the Lord hear our commission,
That we should love and serve our God as one.
The Spirit won't be hindered by division,
In the perfect work that Jesus has begun.

My tongue will be the pen of a ready writer

Ronnie Wilson (1948-2021)

Go into the world to show God's glory,
and may you always know God's blessing and God's peace. Amen