

“The Way, the Truth, the Life”

*Refrain: “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life,
No man cometh unto the Father but by Me.” (Repeat)*

*“I am the Way,’ the Saviour said,
And I would follow on,
Content to know that after night
Shall break a glorious dawn. (Refrain)*

*“I am the Truth;” then Truth shall be
a beacon light to guide
My bark across the stormy sea
To where still waters glide. (Refrain)*

*“I am the Life,” there is no death
For me to fear, nor dread,
Since by His all atoning-blood
My life to His is wed. (Refrain)*

[C Austin Miles (1868-1946)]



The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Geelong



“A community of faith in service to others”

www.christchurchgeelong.com.au

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Mission Statement

Christ Church seeks to be a centre for the worship of Almighty God, providing strength and assistance for all who enter, and enabling God's love in Christ to reach out to the community and world in which we live.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10th May 2020

Liturgical Colour: White

Sentence

'I am the way, and the truth, and the life,' says the Lord.
'No one comes to the Father except through me.'

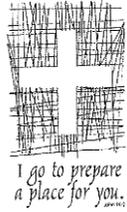
Prayer of the Day *

**Everliving God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way,
the truth, and the life:
give us grace to love one another,
to follow in the way of his
commandments,
and to share his risen life;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
world without end. Amen**



We acknowledge the Wathaurong people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the lands on which Christ Church and its building now stand.

The Vicar Writes



Jesus said I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but by me. Jesus is the Christ who is directly expanded from God the Father. Christ is the first born over creation and his Spirit pervades everything giving life and loving guidance to all creatures. The Lord rules the universe with love, and he reveals his way or path in the incarnation in his perfect words and deeds. Let us now examine these qualities of Jesus as the way, the truth and the life.

The way of Jesus is the way of sacrifice, service, compassion and empathy for others. The Lord emptied himself and lived in humility, serving his disciples by teaching them and guiding them as their spiritual master. The Lord washed the feet of his disciples and declared that he came to serve, not to be served. This is the way of Jesus and those who follow Jesus are those who seek to live in this way, not those who merely praise Jesus with their lips but don't care for his presence in the hearts of others. Those who follow Christ's words and live his way are those who have built their house on rock, the people who don't seek to serve the Lord by living in his way are like those who built their house on sand.

Jesus is the truth. God is infinite wisdom and His wisdom pervades everything. God's wisdom is in the hearts of every living thing. The Lord guides the animals and lesser creatures by instinct, and He guides the humans through intuitive wisdom. Many humans who don't seek the guidance of the Lord from within and are also guided mainly by instinct. Seeking the Absolute Truth is the only thing separating humans from animals and not how many legs they have got. A classic example of how everything is guided by God is the insects flying around a light at night. There may be hundreds of them, but they don't collide. The best computer in the world could not guide mechanical aircraft with such precision; thus nature displays the perfection's of God. Our duty as humans is to seek the guidance of the Lord within our hearts and surrender unto Him.

Jesus is the life. Christ is the light and life of the world; no life can exist without God's Spirit because everything that exists is part and parcel of the Lord. Nothing can exist independently of the Lord and thus we are all utterly dependant on the Lord for our very life. God is like the sun and everything that exists is like the rays of the sun. Everything is an energy of God including our very life or soul which is emanating from God's Spirit. The life of Christ expands directly from the Father God beyond all created phenomena, Christ's words and actions are never separate from the Father's, Christ lives in the Father and the Father lives in Christ. Every soul in this world is part and parcel of the Christ. When we surrender to the Lord in our heart and make him our own, we live in Christ and he lives in us. Thus, through Christ we come to live in the Father.

Because Jesus is the Christ in all hearts whoever seeks God will receive spiritual life and guidance from him. It is not possible to seek God and not receive Christ's guidance because Christ is the Spirit of God within creation, he is Emmanuel, God with us. This verse of John has often been used to encourage sectarianism but again, if understood properly, this verse indicates the universal nature of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God.

The Lord be with you, Fr Russell

Happy
Mother's
Day!



*Living God,
long ago, faithful women
proclaimed the good news
of Jesus' resurrection,
and the world was changed forever.
Teach us to keep faith with them,
that our witness may be as bold,
our love as deep,
and our faith as true. Amen*

[Vanderbilt]

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THE WORLD: Continue to pray for those affected by Covid-19; also pray for those in hospital and other medical centres and, especially, for those working to identify a potential vaccine.

THE CHURCH: The work and witness of the Church of Pakistan.

THE PARISH/COMMUNITY: We read that St Thomas said to Jesus, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Many of us will feel like that in these straitened times. What does the future hold? Despite our apprehension and disquiet, if we follow Jesus, we cannot feel lost for very long. Pray that we who yearn for direction may find it in Jesus Christ, the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. (Source: ABM)

THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED: Those on our prayer list and in our hearts.

THE DEPARTED: Our own departed and those whose yearly remembrance falls at this time (Jan Constance).

NEXT SUNDAY -17TH MAY – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:7-19; 1 Peter 3:8-22

Gospel: John 14:15-21

