

Message for Sunday, May 17, 2026

Scripture: John 17: 1-11

Welcome

Announcements: Giving Options...special offering for May is Verde Valley Sanctuary; United Women of Faith Luncheon “Sail with Jesus” on Tuesday, May 19th at 11:30AM; We need help with hospitality July through October, see Diana Smith AND we need chocolate chip and oatmeal cookies; Mountain View Scholarship Applications due on June 1.

Fellowship of Love

Song

Call to Worship

L: Look to the heavens, people of God.

P: See the power of the Most High God.

L: Christ ascends to heaven in glory.

P: Shout to God with cries of joy.

L: Clap your hand, children of Love incarnate.

P: Sing praises to God, our king.

Unison Prayer

God, Most High, as Christ ascended into the heavens, may our hearts ascend to you.

Open our eyes to the power of your Spirit, and open our lives to the fullness of your power, that we may be clothed with power on high.

Help us wait patiently for the baptism of your Spirit, that we may be found worthy of your great gifts. Amen.

Offering/Song

Scripture: John 17:1-11 NRSVue

17 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

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² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

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³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

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⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.

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⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

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⁶ "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.

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⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.

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⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

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⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.

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¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.

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¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

Sermon:

I'll never forget the very first show that Olivia participated in. We were living in PA, and we were driving to Scranton PA for her to participate in a children's play. The play was The Wizard of Oz, one of my favorite stories. In fact, this is the one story I credit with causing a desire for reading in me. Olivia had a number of parts, I don't remember all of them, various munchkins and so on, she wasn't any major character. One of the many parts? She was a tree. As a running joke in our family any time we see someone playing on a tree on

stage, adult, or kid, we always say to her that “that part is made for her.” She was the best tree of any production we have ever seen.

We give her a playfully hard time about being a tree, but in all honesty we were and are genuinely proud of her. I share this story not because of being proud of her, (even though we are), but because I think we can all identify with what I’m talking about. It could be watching a kid or grandkid excel at sports, theater, or accomplishing awards. It doesn’t matter what the subject is it’s the fact that when you see something like that, in some way you participate in it too. Hear me out here. When I feel proud of my kids, or of my wife, or of my parents, I have a physical reaction. I feel it within myself, a swelling of my chest; a feeling of euphoria, it’s a feeling of participating in what they did and in what they accomplished.

I think the scripture today is at least in part trying to inspire us to that feeling. The idea being that we participate with Christ in what has happened. Somehow we participate in the grand drama that is the salvation story played out in the life of Christ. We are called to be a part of this community which follows Christ and sometimes when we get it right we can take pride in one another.

In verse 6, Jesus says “they were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.” When I read this line it inspires in me the feeling of belonging to God. That what Jesus did through his life, death and resurrection is about joining us into community with God on a deeper level than we may be able to understand, but it is in a way that we are often able to feel.

Jesus’ words in this section of verses also remind me of something else. When Jesus says, “all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them.” (That last part again shows the sharing of Jesus’ glory just like we share in the pride and joy of our kids’ accomplishments.) The beginning of this verse reminds me of one of Katie’s favorite sayings. “What’s yours is mine, and what’s mine is mine, that’s how marriage works.” In a way that is the way that God works within God’s self, the trinity. We belong to God and we belong in relationship with God. Jesus acknowledges that, and in the process of that, offers up a prayer.

The prayer that Jesus speaks deserves a moment of reflection on its own. “Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.” This just shows how bad of a prayer even Jesus can say. Bear with me here. I know we aren’t used to looking at prayers

of Jesus in particular and saying “hey this is not very good” but the reason I say this is because this prayer isn’t answered by God, and in the book of John, Jesus is very clearly God too.

Let me help you understand where this prayer goes wrong. You see, Peter gets crucified. Paul gets beheaded. Stephen gets stoned...and that’s only a few of the disciples. I’m not pointing out this prayer to say “how dare Jesus pray this.” But instead to say that sometimes even when Jesus prayed things didn’t come through the way we would think. Now I am not going to do back flips to try and interpret this prayer in a way that makes us feel better. In fact, I think its power is in the opposite way. That at least for me it’s nice to know that Jesus’ own prayers don’t get answered the way we think they should. That goes back to the original point that some how Jesus, God, are a little more participatory with us than we might first realize.

Where do we go from here? Well, where I think we go with this is to remember that God is within us. We already belong to God, and we should participate in the good things that Christ has done. Live into it, I don’t know about you, but it makes me better than I am! Amen.

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Pastoral Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

Song

Benediction

Song

Goodbye