

PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY SERVICE

Wednesday, 17th April 2024

ORDER OF SERVICE



Theme: "The Good Samaritan in Action"

Speaker: Dr Alan J. Branford

Peace be with you!

And also with you!

The candle is lit

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Many have gone before who have honoured God by caring for this land, in the ways they have lived and the stories they have shared. We give thanks for the Kaurua people, who have held as sacred the duty of protecting the Land, and living in harmony with it.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DIVERSITY

We recognise our diversity and, acknowledging the Uniting Safe Church Policy, we accept that this is a safe place in which all people can worship together, irrespective of race, creed, age, ability, gender identity, sexuality, cultural background, or any other distinguishing feature.

OPENING PRAYER

A Prayer of Diligent Discipleship

Let me a simple friar be,
To learn from Christ the way to see
The needs of our humanity,
To act with love accordingly
And serve with true humility.

Let me a simple friar be.

Amen

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OPENING HYMN

Together in Song, No. 629:- *“When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?”*

Sydney Carter (b. 1915)

GOSPEL READINGS

New International Version

Mark 12:28-34

Julian Whiting

Matthew 22:34-40

Esmond Dowdy

Luke 10:25-28,29-30a, ... ,36-37

Alan Branford

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” ²⁷ He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” ²⁸ “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ^{30a}
In reply Jesus said:

<the parable>

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” ³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPEL READINGS

Alan Branford

Robert Walter Funk, Bernard Brandon Scott, James R. Butts, & The Jesus Seminar. (1988). *The Parables of Jesus*, Red Letter Edition (The Jesus Seminar Series). Sonoma, California: Polebridge Press. pp. 30-31.

THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10:30b-35 – **The Parable of the Good Samaritan**

Alan Branford

^{30b} A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

PRESENTATION – THE GOOD SAMARITAN IN ACTION

Alan Branford

One of the best-known parables is that of The Good Samaritan. It is clear that our Christian duty is to help the person in distress, rather than to leave them suffering. But the Parable puts us as a Samaritan, giving generous support to the Jew on the roadside. The realization of this puts a whole new level of obligation upon us, but we need to understand who the Samaritans and who the Jews were in the time of Jesus to recognize this. In this presentation, the history of the Samaritans and the Jews will be outlined so that we may understand the full force of this Parable. The presentation will conclude with some examples in contemporary situations.

DISCUSSION

Moderator: Wendy Young

CLOSING HYMN

“Who Is Thy Neighbor?”

Who is thy neighbor? He whom thou
Hast power to aid or bless;
Whose aching heart or burning brow
Thy soothing hand may press.

Thy neighbor? 'Tis the fainting poor
Whose eye with want is dim;
O enter thou his humble door,
With aid and peace for him.

Thy neighbor? He who drinks the cup
When sorrow drowns the brim;
With words of high, sustaining hope,
Go thou and comfort him.

Thy neighbor? Yonder toiling slave,
Fettered in thought and limb;
Whose hopes are all beyond the grave,
Go thou, and ransom him.

Thy neighbor? Pass no mourner by;
Perhaps thou canst redeem
A breaking heart from misery;
Go, share thy lot with him.

*William Cutter (1801-1867); William Bourn Oliver Peabody (1799-1847)
published in the Christian Mirror (Portland, Maine, May 30, 1828)
now in the public domain*

BENEDICTION

Let us invoke a blessing on us all as we depart this place to live Christ-like lives in this, the Kingdom of God,

In the Name of ...

God the Creator – **The Great Architect of the Universe**

God the Eternal Logos – **Made Human as Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ**

God the Holy Spirit – **The Power of God Within Us**

AMEN

The candle is extinguished

NOTICES

- **Thursday, 24th October 2024** – *Societas Lux et Sapientia* (The Light and Wisdom Society) – The Caledonian Hotel, 215 O'Connell St, North Adelaide SA 5006 – Dr Alan J. Branford will present a Lecture, "**Humanist or Heretic – An Iconoclast's Christian Theology and Christology**" – 6:30 p.m. for 7:00 p.m. – Dinner is held at 8:00 p.m.
- other notices