

4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**ST. PETERS ANGLICAN CHURCH BUNDOORA****Sunday 21st June 2026****Fr. Stephen Monsieigneur****Readings:**¹ Genesis 21:8-12 / Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 / Romans 6:1-11 / Matthew 10:24-39**Series Title:** **Called to Discipleship, who me? How?****Today's Theme:** ***“Dead to Sin, Alive to Christ, Sent Without Fear”***

Genesis 21:8-12

⁸ The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹ But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. ¹⁰ So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.” ¹¹ The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹² But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you.

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17***Supplication for Help against Enemies******A Prayer of David.***

¹ Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.

² Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.

You are my God; ³ be gracious to me, O Lord,
for to you do I cry all day long.

⁴ Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

⁵ For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

⁶ Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
listen to my cry of supplication.

⁷ In the day of my trouble I call on you,
for you will answer me.

⁸ There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.

⁹ All the nations you have made shall come
and bow down before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.

¹⁰ For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God.

¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord,
that I may walk in your truth;

¹ All scriptural quotations are lifted from New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. (NRSVUE)
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give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹² I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.

¹³ For great is your steadfast love toward me;
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

¹⁴ O God, the insolent rise up against me;
a band of ruffians seeks my life,
and they do not set you before them.

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me;
give your strength to your servant;
save the child of your maidservant.

¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,
because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Romans 6:1-11

Dying and Rising with Christ

6 What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 10:24-39

²⁴ "A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

Whom to Fear

²⁶ "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, ³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷ “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

SERMON

Today’s readings invite us to ask what discipleship really is. Is it simply believing certain things about Jesus, or is it a whole new way of living?

Paul answers by taking us back to baptism. “All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death”². Baptism is not only a symbol of belonging; it is a participation in Christ’s death and resurrection. In baptism, the old life ruled by sin, fear, and self-protection is put to death, and a new life begins. Paul says we are buried with Christ “so we also might walk in newness of life”³.

That newness of life is the beginning of discipleship.

A disciple is not merely an admirer of Jesus but one who Jesus is reshaping. In Matthew, Jesus says, “A disciple is not above the teacher” and “it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher”⁴. Baptism, therefore, gives us both an identity and a direction. Our identity is that we are “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus”⁵. Our direction is to become more like the Teacher: truthful, courageous, merciful, prayerful, and faithful even when costly.

Jesus is honest that discipleship will not always be easy, there will be opposition, but . He also tells his followers not to fear those who oppose them, for the Father knows even the sparrow and counts the hairs of their heads⁶. This is where faith and God’s love become essential. Faith is not bravado. It is trust that our lives are held by the God who loves us more deeply than we can measure. God’s love frees us from needing the approval of everyone around us. It gives courage to acknowledge Christ before others, to speak truth with humility, and to carry the cross in ordinary places.

So what might a baptised disciple look like in the modern world?

² Romans 6:3

³ Rom. 6:4

⁴ Matthew. 10:24–25

⁵ Rom. 6:11

⁶ Matt. 10:29–31

We may recognise such a person not because they are loud about religion, but because their life carries the shape of Jesus.

- In the workplace, a disciple refuses gossip, tells the truth, treats difficult colleagues with patience, and will not sacrifice integrity for promotion.
- In the family, a disciple forgives, asks forgiveness, honours others, and chooses love when pride would rather win.
- In the community, a disciple notices the lonely neighbour, welcomes the stranger, supports the poor, and gives time to those who cannot repay them.

We live in a multilayered world where a disciple may also be recognisable in digital life. They do not join cruelty online, share half-truths, or reduce people to enemies. They use words to bless, encourage, challenge injustice, and witness to hope. They may pray before responding to anger. They may make choices about money, consumption, and time that show Christ, not comfort, is Lord. Such actions are not attempts to earn God's love. They are signs that God's love has already taken hold.

This is why baptism matters so deeply. It tells us that discipleship begins with grace. We do not baptise ourselves into a better life; God draws us into Christ's life. We do not make ourselves new; God raises us with Christ. Yet grace is never passive. The baptised life is a daily "yes" to the life God has given: yes, to repentance, yes to courage, yes to compassion, yes to the cross, and yes to resurrection hope.

Jesus says, "Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it"⁷. That is the mystery of discipleship. In baptism, we lose the old life that could never save us. In Christ, we receive the life that cannot be taken away. Therefore, dead to sin, alive to Christ, and sent without fear, we go into the world as recognisable disciples—people whose faith is visible because God's love is being made visible through us.

We see something of this costly trust in Abraham's actions toward Hagar and Ishmael. His decision is painful and troubling, yet as the scripture tells it, God hears the child's cry and provides a future where human sight can see only wilderness⁸.

Abraham's story reminds us that discipleship often requires surrender: entrusting those we love, and even the outcomes we cannot control, to God's mercy. Faith is not certainty that life will be simple; it is trust that God's love is present even in hard obedience, opening wells of life where we feared there was only loss.

So we might ask ourselves: Where is Christ inviting me to die to fear, pride, or self-protection so that his risen life may be seen in me? And who might recognise God's love more clearly because of the way I speak, forgive, serve, or surrender this week?

⁷ Matt. 10:39

⁸ Genesis 21:17–19

Let us pray,

Loving God, in baptism, you have joined us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Help us die to sin, fear, pride, and self-protection, and raise us daily into the new life of Christ. Fill us with faith in your steadfast love, courage to follow where Jesus leads, and compassion that makes your grace visible to others. Send us into the world without fear, as disciples whose lives point to your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

References

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition Bible. (2021). National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.