

Sunday 15 March 2026 Cooma Anglican HC 3

Hymn: TIS 247 Let all be one in mind and heart

Let all be one in mind and heart, with Jesus Christ our Lord,
who, though He was by nature God, God's glory laid aside.

He laid his heavenly glory down; God's servant he became
Obediently he lived, to die in shame upon the cross

Now God has raised Him up, to bear the name above all names;
at Jesus' name all knees shall bow, all tongues proclaim Him Lord.

All glory now the Father shares, with His exalted Son,
whom God the Holy Spirit raised from death to heaven's throne.

Sentence of Scripture

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:9

The Great Commandments

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' 'This is the great and first commandment.

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, in Jesus Christ you reveal yourself to the world, even when we are blind to your grace. Open our eyes to see your transforming love in our midst, so that we may see your world anew; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Joshua 23:1-8 (NIV)

¹ After a long time had passed and the LORD had given Israel rest from all their enemies around them, Joshua, by then a very old man, ² summoned all Israel—their elders, leaders, judges and officials —and said to them: “I am very old. ³ You yourselves have seen everything the LORD your God has done to all these nations for your sake; it was the LORD your God who fought for you. ⁴ Remember how I have allotted as an inheritance for your tribes all the land of the nations that remain—the nations I conquered—between the Jordan and the Mediterranean Sea in the west. ⁵ The LORD your God himself will push them

out for your sake. He will drive them out before you, and you will take possession of their land, as the LORD your God promised you.

⁶ “Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left. ⁷ Do not associate with these nations that remain among you; do not invoke the names of their gods or swear by them. You must not serve them or bow down to them. ⁸ But you are to hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have until now.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 26 (NIV)

¹ Vindicate me, LORD, for I have led a blameless life; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

² **Test me, LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind;**

³ for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness.

⁴ **I do not sit with the deceitful, nor do I associate with hypocrites.**

⁵ I abhor the assembly of evildoers and refuse to sit with the wicked.

⁶ **I wash my hands in innocence, and go about your altar, LORD,**

⁷ proclaiming aloud your praise and telling of all your wonderful deeds.

⁸ **LORD, I love the house where you live, the place where your glory dwells.**

⁹ Do not take away my soul along with sinners, my life with those who are bloodthirsty,

¹⁰ **in whose hands are wicked schemes, whose right hands are full of bribes.**

¹¹ I lead a blameless life; deliver me and be merciful to me.

¹² **My feet stand on level ground; in the great congregation I will praise the LORD.**

Philippians 4:1-9 (NIV)

¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends! ² I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Matthew 7:21-29 (NIV)

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Sermon - The Blind and Those who will no see

Chorus: Rejoice in the Lord always

Rejoice in the Lord always, Again I say rejoice

Rejoice in the Lord always, Again I say rejoice

Rejoice rejoice, Again I say rejoice

Rejoice rejoice, Again I say rejoice

The Nicene' Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the world and the church

Response: Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Scripture Sentence

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 1 Corinthians 11:26-28

The Confession

Knowing the goodness of God and our failure to respond with love and obedience, let us confess our sins, saying together:

Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have broken your holy laws and have left undone what we ought to have done.

We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.

For the sake of your Son who died for us, forgive us, cleanse us and change us.

By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God is slow to anger and full of compassion, forgiving all who humbly repent and trust in his Son as Saviour and Lord. God therefore forgives you in Christ Jesus, in whom there is no condemnation. **Amen**

Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn - TIS 129 Make me a channel of your peace

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound!

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;

Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come.
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright, shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

Thanksgiving for Offering

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you **And also with you**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, making us in your own image. We praise you for your son, our saviour Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and rising to new life offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

And now, gracious God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine, and pray that we who receive them in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit according to our Saviour's word, in remembrance of his suffering and death, may share his body and his blood. On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying 'Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you.

We who are many are one body in Christ, **for we all share in the one bread.**

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying 'Drink from this all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' We eat this bread and drink this cup **to proclaim the death of the Lord.** We do this until he returns. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Father, as we recall his saving death and glorious resurrection, may we who share these gifts be renewed by the Holy Spirit, and united in the body of your Son. Bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom, there to feast at your table and join in your eternal praise.

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive praise and honour and glory and power forever and ever. Amen

The Holy Communion

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts with thanksgiving.

After Communion

Gracious God, thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of our saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love, and that we are living members of Christ's body.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

Notices

Hymn - TIS 201 - King of glory, King of peace

**King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee;
and, that love may never cease, I will move thee.**

**Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.**

**Wherefore with my utmost art, I will sing thee,
and the cream of all my heart, I will bring thee.**

**Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.**

**Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.**

**Small it is, in this poor sort, to enrol thee:
ev'n eternity's too short to extol thee.**

Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Sermon - Paul's Appeals - Philippians 4:1-9

Before mobile phones we would often leave them little reminders of the things the kids needed to do before they went to school. There is still one pinned up near our front door. It says:

- Have you got everything (lunch, Keys, Wallet, Forms)?
- Have you put the dog out and made sure she has water?
- Call me when you get home?

Three simple reminders of things we talked about many times, and would save them a lot of inconvenience if they actually remembered them.

Similarly, our passage today has three appeals from Paul:

- Stand firm (v1, v9)
- Be of the same mind, and help others to be of the same mind (v2,3) and
- Rejoice (vv4-7)

Standing firm, agreeing with others and seeing the bright side of things are great advice, no matter your situation. You only have to consider their opposites to see this. Failure, continual opposition and despair are not good for you or your relationships. You don't have to be one of the greatest of the apostles like Paul was, or even a Christian to know this - I am sure most if you have had periods of life characterised by them - by apparent failure, continual opposition and despair, and you know how incredibly disabling they are, and how far you would go to avoid them again.

Yet Paul, in appealing to the Philippians, and to us, is not just talking about standing firm, having the same mind and rejoicing in their general senses. Did you notice that in each case, he qualifies the appeal.

He doesn't call the Philippians to just stand firm - He calls them to stand firm **IN THE LORD**.

He doesn't call Euodia and Syntyche to just be of the same mind - to sort out their differences - he calls them to be of the same mind **IN THE LORD**, and for his true companion to help them in this.

And he doesn't just call the Philippians to just rejoice, he calls them to rejoice **IN THE LORD**.

So now, I want to look at each of these appeals in the Lord to see how we should apply them in our lives, not just the Philippians, which Paul is appealing to us to do.

Stand firm (v1) Put what you have learned from Paul into practise (v9)

The first appeal is in verse 4, where Paul calls the Philippians, whom he calls his dear brothers and sisters whom he loves and longs for, his joy and his crown, his dear friends, to stand firm in the Lord. He appeals for them to stand firm in the Lord, following his example, and just as you have Paul and his companions as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

Philippians 3:17. Down in verse 9, Paul also says "9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice."

The way we are to stand firm is by following Paul's example, and by putting into practise what we have learned from him. We know all too well how easy it would have been for Paul to give up. After all, he was in gaol, again, and when he and Silas were in gaol in Philippi, the magistrates ordered that they be released. They could have gone quietly, but they would have had to leave Philippi immediately. This wasn't acceptable to Paul as he wanted more time to encourage the fledgling church that had been planted at Lydia's house, and to meet with the brothers and sisters to encourage and be encouraged by them, as well as their newly saved gaolers and their families. He stood firm where he was, invoking his Roman citizenship, and bought himself more time with his beloved Philippian church.

This is one example of how Paul stood firm in the Lord, but how do we follow his example? Our gospel reading, the well known parable of the wise man who built his house on the rock, tells us a lot about standing firm. Obviously the defining difference between a house built on rock and a house built on sand is how well it stands firm through the storms of life. Jesus says this stability exists because of hearing the words of Jesus - reading them in your Bibles, and putting them into practice. Paul tells you the way that you stand firm is by understanding God's word and practising it in your life. This is what Paul always did, and we should follow his example.

Be of the same mind, and help others to be of the same mind (V2)

The second appeal that Paul makes is to be in the same mind in the Lord. We don't know anything else about Euodia and Syntyche except that they had contended at Paul's side in the cause of the gospel, and now have had a falling out. Paul doesn't say what they have fallen out over. Paul would have given more information if they had fallen out over big gospel issues, so it probably wasn't something major. Nevertheless, unity within the church is a major theme in the New Testament. Earlier in Philippians 2:2-3 Paul asks them to

"make his joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

He appeals to the Corinthians, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of them agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among them, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. (1 Corinthians 1:10) and that they strive for full restoration, encouraging one another, being of one mind, living in peace (2Cor13:11). He appeals that Romans with one mind and one voice may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, accepting one another, then, just as Christ accepted them, in order to bring praise to God (Romans 15:5-7). Even Peter in his first letter appeals to all of you to be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

Again, this isn't unity for its own sake, but unity in the Lord. The Philippians are firstly to have the same mind as Christ in gospel issues. Euodia and Syntyche were united in the gospel, contending alongside Paul for it previously, and now they shouldn't let minor disputes divide them. How does that demonstrate Christ's love? The encouragement of being in Christ? The acceptance of Christ? The Peace of Christ? The Humility of Christ? Ultimately, how do divisions bring praise to God?

Every week in this church before we share the Lord's supper together, we confess our sins to each other in repentance and God forgives us. This is modelled on Matthew 5:23-24 which says: ²³ if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. Divisions, or having anything against a Christian brother or sister is not compatible with worshipping together, and differences must be reconciled before we come together to worship the Lord.

Rejoice (vv4-7)

Paul's final appeal in this passage is to Rejoice in the Lord always. He even says it again: Rejoice! He tells us our rejoicing should be evident to everyone in our gentleness, and he tells us that we can rejoice because the Lord is near, and because we don't need to be anxious about anything, because in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, we should be presenting our requests to God. What is more, the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

This isn't much more that can be said about rejoicing in the Lord. Jesus is always near, and so we always have reason to rejoice. Jesus loves us, so in every situation we can bring our request to God, and we can ask with thankfulness, with confidence in the one who loved us enough to lay down his life for us.

When I started this series of Philippians sermons, we heard how Paul prayed that their love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:9-11) Paul prayed that they be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, and today he prays a similar prayer, that the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Paul has absolute confidence in this prayer, and so rejoices, because the one he is praying to is in very nature God and is now exalted to the highest place. He experienced death on the cross in our place and was raised back to life that our names may be written in the book of life, and that we too be raised to eternal life. We too can pray this prayer, perhaps praying through our prayer diary with the same confidence, and with the same rejoicing, in the same Lord!

The God of peace is with us too, and he will be with us to eternal life, so we too have the confidence that Paul does, and can rejoice in the same way.

Conclusion

Paul appeals to us in this passage to Stand firm, to be of the same mind in the Lord, and to Rejoice in the Lord always. These are vastly more significant than my kids remembering their lunch, putting the dog out and calling when they get home, but despite the significant degree of happiness when our kids did remember them, when Christian brothers and sisters do stand firm in one mind in the Lord, there is no greater reason to rejoice in the Lord always, and as Paul (and I) say it again, rejoice!

So let us now rejoice in the Lord in the words of the chorus that I am sure many of us know: Rejoice in the Lord Always!