

GREET-PRAY-SERVE

**SERVE**

John 13:1-17

St Annes Ryde  
ANGELICAN CHURCH



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How low?

## 1. Jesus descended to serve

John 13:1-17 - lowliest service



Mark 10:42-45 - "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve , and to give his life as a ransom for many."

## 2. Jesus decided to serve

Matthew 26:36-44 - Not as I will, but as the Father wills

Philippians 2:1-8 - our attitude should be like Jesus



*eg. Samuel Logan Brengle*



**THINK – as you come to church not about how your needs are going to be met but how you can meet the needs of others and God then graciously meets our needs as we serve others.**

### **3. Jesus deserves to be served**

**1 John 4:9-11 - ‘This is how God showed his love among us. He sent his one and only son into the world that we might live through him. This is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.’**



**How are you at doing at choosing the hard path? Not for its own sake, not to be a “martyr” in other peoples or your own eyes, but because there is a need that you can meet. Because it will serve your God serving his Church.**

**We DO NOT serve Jesus SO THAT we will receive entry to heaven.**



**To truly believe in Jesus is not merely to accept the claims about his person; it is to know him in his death and resurrection, to find life through death. To know that life is to share in its example, in the ongoing experience of dying to live, of serving as he served.**

# Greet

Luke 9:46-48, 10:25-37

## ► *The Divine welcome in Jesus changes everything...*

Greeting and welcoming people at church can seem a challenge on top of ministering to our friends and the business of life. This is all understandable...but it's not acceptable. God has welcomed each of us with open arms, despite our flaws and unworthiness. The Divine Welcome comes to us when we least deserve it. God has literally rolled out the red carpet of his own blood to ensure that you and I are eternal VIPs...children of God. Jesus is God's ultimate divine welcome AND his life and death *must change the way we interact with others.*

### **Patricia Kerr (paraphrase):**

The God who made and sustains us wishes to welcome everyone into his household through Jesus Christ. Therefore, Christian welcoming can be defined as the reality of divine welcome experienced and expressed in the life of God's children.

In other words, Christian welcoming is the reflection of God's character in the life of each Christian and of the church. **It is a life style, a visible portrayal of the first commandment to love God and neighbour.**

It is being ready and available as food, drink, comfort and welcome for people. **It is stretching our hearts and resources for the welfare of others and to the glory of God.** Consequently, welcoming goes far beyond the act of greeting people at church and becomes an all-encompassing approach to Christian life in general and to relationships in particular. ...The practice of welcoming should make us all the more dependent on the Holy Spirit.



## 7 WAYS 2 GREET

1. **Nametags:** Wear them. Not everyone knows your name.
2. **Back row:** Don't sit there. The back row is an easy place for visitors.
3. **Don't arrive on time:** Arrive early and stay back afterwards.
4. **5 minute rule:** Spend the first 5 minutes after church talking to:  
#1 new people  
#2 less frequent people  
#3 regulars you don't know. THEN ... introduce them to your friends.
5. **Morning tea/ supper:** Show up and invite others (especially visitors). Join the roster.
6. **Welcome packs/ green slips:** Give out to new people, then contact visitors to tell them how great it was to have them at church.
7. **Invite new people to lunch:** Have new people over to your place for snack/meal.

# PRAY

## Prayer. All About God (Luke 11:1-13)

Prayer at a very basic level is walking and talking with God in constant relationship and communication.

**Great prayer is not needed, INSTEAD pray to our great God**

**Prayer 101: Ten things to help you pray – *in no particular order***

- 1. Just pray!!!** There are no bad prayers...and if you get off course (be humble enough to) let God or others bring you back.
- 2. Don't babble or show off:** Better to say three heartfelt words like 'God, I'm sorry' than to babble on endlessly. Don't pray in a wordy way that discourages others.
- 3. Simple prayers are often the best:** The Lord's prayer is really pretty basic.  
*Go and do likewise.*
- 4. The Lord's prayer** is a great prayer and a great model BUT it's not the only prayer. God wants to hear from you and some times that means not praying it.
- 5. Pray with God's people and for God's people:** Prayer is not simply a solitary thing. Like the Christian life, it's great when done as a team activity. Start a prayer triplet! Pray with others, pray often. Pray for St Annes: people, events, etc. (use the bulletin, prayers and activities).
- 6. Prayer doesn't have a position:** Your heart matters, not the position of your body.
- 7. Pray for** your basic needs with a forgiving heart and for strength against sin.
- 8. Ask, seek, knock:** Ask for specific things - from your friends coming to know Jesus to healing for sick loved ones. Pray daily, setting aside regular time for focused prayer. Pray anywhere & everywhere, for anyone & everything.
- 9. Jesus name:** A Christian always prays in Jesus name whether they say 'In Jesus name' or not. Don't think it's a magic phrase reserved for the most important prayers.
- 10. Pray to God, our heavenly Father.** He loves you and wants to hear from you. Jesus made it all possible on the cross.

▶▶ **If at any time you are unsure how to proceed with prayer...see point #1**

**QUOTE:** *South American theologian Gustavo Gutierrez has said,*

*"Prayer is an experience of gratuity. This 'pointless' act, this 'squandered' time, reminds us that the Lord is beyond being categorized as useful or useless." Paul Stevens restates this, "Basically we pray... simply to delight in God together. Too often we allow a utilitarian dimension to creep into prayer, praying for what we get out of it."*

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**DONT JUST STAND THERE  
...PRAY SOMETHING!**

