

Dear friends we are gathered here today to grieve, honour, and celebrate the life of **Jane Floyd**. I know she was much loved by her family and all those that knew her - she will indeed leave a void in many lives.

But for the Christian(as Jane was)there is life & hope beyond the grave – we could say the same for Jane today as the apostle Paul said of himself 2000 years ago, at the end of his own life in:

2 Timothy 4:7- *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.*

We can take great comfort that Jane’s **longing** has come to an end and she is with her Saviour now.

I first met Jane about 14 years ago here at CBC and **two things** stand out for me, as I recall that first meeting: **firstly her attractive appearance**, she must have been in her late 70’s then, but her lively and enthusiastic personality mixed with **that** youthful, sparkly face of hers, gave me the impression, she was much younger than her years.

Jane had the most perfect skin. **Janine** told me she was always meticulous about her appearance and insisted on her daily routines of face creams and perfumes right up to the very end.

I think there was something about Jane’s generation (my mom was the same) it was that age group that lived through the war and rationing, they never had very much, and survived often, in the most difficult of circumstances.

As we have heard already Jane had humble beginnings, coming from a large family, she lost her mom when she was just a young girl, which left her with the responsibility of caring for her younger

siblings. It was probably from this experience, that she developed a real love for children and especially babies throughout her life.

I would surmise as well; It was coming from this austere background, mixed with her faith, which made Jane the **spirited and determined lady** we all knew her to be.

The second thing that was immediately apparent in those few conversations, I had with her back then, **was her spirituality,**

Jane really knew her Bible and was absolutely convinced and confident in what she believed, she took 'no prisoners' in declaring the truths of the scriptures and sharing her faith with her family and others.

As Jonathan has alluded to; Jane's spiritual journey began after checking out her son's new found faith, which resulted in husband Bryan and herself finding faith themselves.

Jane was baptised at a local Pentecostal church by full immersion (which is the only type of baptism mentioned in the bible) and having to go fully under the water was amazing in itself, as Jane had a fear of water (and probably didn't want to get her hair wet as well!) but of course it meant so much to her, to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, to allow those trivial matters to get in the way.

Jane was no 'shrinking violet' in her new found faith, sharing her born again experience with anybody and everybody, getting involved in running a youth group with Bryan.

Her faith however was no 'academic theory' or just words, as she would put into practise what she believed, by helping anybody she could, and even taking in people from the streets into to her home.

It is clear from anybody that new Jane that her faith was her rock and her obsession, and her new life and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ was the central motivational force in her life.

Jane knew the truth of the scripture stated in Romans 10:9

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, **you will be saved**”

And at the core of her belief was the truth that you have to be ‘born again’ to enter the kingdom of God. Jesus says the same thing in his encounter with Nicodemus in the gospel of John chapter 3. I will read it to you.

“Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again”

“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’

The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit”

So WHY do we need to be born again? Well to put it bluntly because we are dead! (Jane’s physical body may have died but she’s alive spiritually) Here’s a fundamental truth from the bible and a foundational doctrine of the Christian faith; every one of us (without exception) is born physically alive **but spiritually dead.**

To get some understanding of this we need to go back to our roots in the Garden of Eden. We know in the beginning man was

created perfect, he had unspoilt fellowship with God - but then the fall came.

You may recall man's tragic demise through Adam and Eve into disobedience and sin, it tells us in the first book of the bible Genesis 2:16-17

*"And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, **for when you eat from it you will certainly die.**"*

But he did eat! He disobeyed God and what God said came to pass "You will certainly die" and what God meant was, he would die physically (which he did later on) **but also die spiritually** and he did so immediately.

And that is what spiritual death means - we are separated from God, in conflict and out of relationship with Him. Every one of us is born into this condition - none of us are exempt. We are all born spiritually dead.

Romans 5:12 says - *'Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin and in this way, death came to all men because all sinned.'*

So tragically the fellowship man had with God was broken there and then. And this sin, this broken relationship with God, has come all the way down the gene line from Adam & Eve to us. Hence why you need to be born again - born spiritually, to restore that relationship with God.

And there is no other way that relationship can be restored except through the cross and the blood of Christ. And only through that one man Jesus Christ.

Jesus makes it abundantly clear when he says about himself those words from the gospel of John (that Jill read to us earlier)

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me".

So what does it mean to be born again? Well it's **not** about just living a good life, or **not** doing anyone any harm, or doing charity work, or even coming to church on a Sunday.

It is a complete radical change. I would call it a complete heart transplant and each of us needs to come to that place if we want a future beyond this life.

2 Corinthians 5:17; *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come"*

That's why Jane was so active in speaking to family members about the importance of been born again. **Because it makes a difference for all eternity**

Many people would say the bible is vague, it's not at all. The bible tells us that there are only 2 conditions you can be in this life - you're either **in Christ or you're not**, your either saved or unsaved, your either on the narrow road or the wide road, you can serve **only one of 2 masters** - The world and your selfish interests or God - either you are on the path to eternal life or the path to death and condemnation.

Which path or road are you on my friend? There is no half way house.

And it becomes more apparent on an occasion like today, when we cannot help but consider our own eternal destiny.

Death in much of a sense is a wakeup call for the living! No matter what age that death is or in what circumstances it occurred.

To wake us out of our apathy and disregard for spiritual things and make us think about the foundations of our lives, the things we depend on and those things we put our trust in.

I do believe life is set up that way, through our circumstances and the things that happen to us, and happen to those around us, we are been continually reminded of the existence of God, the brevity

of life, and how fragile our existence on this earth is. And none of us is without excuse - Romans 1 says:

¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Just go for a walk or look out at the trees and nature they are crying out to the reality of Gods existence.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says this - **'there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born **and a time to die**, a time to plant and a time to uproot.'**

Yet most people live not believing death will ever happen to them -they are too busy living and don't want to consider such a morose subject as death. They try and avoid the truth of their own mortality.

Woody Allen, the comedian, said - *'It's not that I'm afraid to die, I just don't want to be there when it happens.'* The truth is everyone will be there - we can't go hiding in the bushes until it passes us by.

The foolish person gives no thought for the future and no thought of his death - but scripture says in the book of Proverbs, regarding the man planning for the future by stacking up wealth - *'this very night your life will be taken from you.'*

It's very sad today there appears very few 'seekers'! Very few people asking questions about their lives, their mortality, about their destiny after this life. It's almost as if they are self satisfied with their lot, it's like "I'm ok jack I don't need anything" or I'm quite content with my life as it is.

How mistaken we are if we say that. We **not only** need God in this life to give us purpose and meaning and hope. But also in the life to come, the truth is;

Self sufficiency is an enemy of God – a curse even! – People are far too 'healthy today'!! They don't seem to need anything more than what they have got already, the material things, the temporary things, and those things that won't last. But the truth is they are sleep walking into disaster!

If you don't know Jesus, you will be in for a big shock when you leave this life, and then it will be too late! - The Bible says *'it is for a man to die once and face judgement'*.

We have a banner in the car park (you can't miss it really its 16 ft long) with these words from Jesus *'Come to Me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest'*

What is this rest that faith in Jesus brings?

Its rest from that hopelessness of life that comes from being a victim of the 'religion of evolution', the religion that says 'your here by chance', just a 'super advanced ape' on the merry go round of a life without purpose and meaning and the brutal philosophy of the survival of the fittest. Rest only He can give.

And what we are talking about here is **permanent rest** not temporary – rest for your soul, not your body – rest in the **main** not for this life, but the next,

Rest that when you're at the end of life, on your deathbed, you're **resting** in the knowledge of knowing you will be welcomed into heavenly dwellings. Knowing that your journey, your pilgrimage in this life was all worthwhile.

That's the **rest He brings** & there is no other like it, nothing compares to it, rest for your souls. 'Come to Jesus' our banner says – I can't think of a better invitation to anyone.

He is waiting for each of us to give up our striving and independence and the burdens we carry around - and find rest - rest from our endless round of self seeking, the preoccupation

with ourselves and pursuit of things that do not last or have any eternal value.

And as we lay Jane **to rest** today. *Someone who found she could depend on God to carry her through every part of this life and into eternity.*

We ourselves must go back to lives in which there is now a fresh and painful absence. We must go back to knowing that we too, one day, will have to die - are we ready for it? Do we know where we are going? I am saying, **and Jane would be saying,** 'you can, **If you will only turn to Him and admit your need'**

As Jesus says "*Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me*" (Revelation 3:20) **the first step for us all - is - making the choice to open that door and let Him in.** We do that knowing this truth:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life".(John 3:16)

Amen