

- *Shorter service following "Listening to the Community Workshop" in the morning*

Introduction: Peace

- Think of someone you know who is **at peace**:
 - not "RIP" at peace!!
 - but at peace with themselves, with those around them
- What gives them that peace?
 - **security in relationships/identity**
 - **security in purpose**

Peace comes from a Secure Identity (vs.1-6)

- Jesus the High Priest has secured for us peace with God
 - we are the people of God, we are secure
 - kids who grow up secure in the love of their parents, knowing that nothing they do will change that love are more likely to be secure in their own identity
 - we are built to be part of community, of a network of relationships
- Who am I? Peter's dad, Helen's husband, Robin's son, Fintry's minister...
- For us that comes from Christ:
 - because he is the true high priest
 - qualifications for high priesthood in vs.1-3
 - Jesus matches those in vs.4-6

Qualifications for High Priesthood

- selected from among men
- represents them in matters related to God
- offers gifts and sacrifices for sins
- deals gently with sinners - since in same situation
- needs to be pure - normally by offering sacrifices on his own behalf

Jesus the perfect High Priest

- Jesus didn't take this honour to himself, it was given to him by God:
 - in other words, he was appointed by God to represent us in matters related to God - application of Psalm 110:4 quoted in v.6
 - briefly here - explored more in Hebrews 7 - the priesthood that Jesus has is "in the order of Melchizedek"; so different from Aaronic priesthood, but just as valid
- But contrast with Jewish priests who had to make sacrifices for themselves is also clear here:
 - Jesus did not need to; he was perfect, sinless
- All in all, the perfect high priest who is able to present us before God, to mediate on our behalf
 - **he** is perfectly equipped for the job, and so we are secure in our approach to the throne of heaven!
- **Freya meeting Gordon Ramsay at Food and Flower Festival - because of her uncle!**

Peace comes from a Sure Purpose (vs.7-10)

- Some of us are task people rather than people people
 - (but even then the tasks often allow us to relate to people in a way that we can cope with!!)
 - knew of a guy who fixed cars, but wasn't a mixer with people - but that skill was given, "I'll help...", and so he had many friends
- What do you do?
 - identity and purpose...
- **Now a Christian... now what?!**
 - **struggle to live life to glorify God!**

- Jesus sympathises/identifies/comes alongside us
- was himself "trained" for the task of the Cross by his sufferings in life; they had purpose
- he establishes for us a pattern of obedience that we should follow - not that we that way win our salvation; that is his gift to us
- but those who look to Jesus as the unique source of salvation will want to express their faith in ongoing obedience as he did.

Conclusion

- Such peace, in identity and purpose, is often a hidden reality
 - you can't look at someone and see it!!
 - but is underneath our serving well and living well...