

Sunday Service ~ March 8, 2026

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Prayer

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. ² Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. ³ For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth & the mountain peaks belong to him. ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it & his hands formed the dry land. ⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; ⁷ for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Let's Pray. Sovereign Lord, what a great privilege it is to come into your presence this morning. To be able to sing to the rock of our salvation. To be able to come before you in thanksgiving and to praise you with music and song. To be able to humble ourselves in worship, to pray to our maker & to place ourselves under your sovereign care.

We admit that we don't come to you often enough, and we don't thank you enough, nor are we humble enough, dependent enough, passionate enough. Please forgive us. Forgive us because for everything we have done wrong, whether we have done or said or acted in the wrong way or failed to do, say or act in the right way, that wrongdoing meant that your Son Jesus had to die on the cross to forgive us that sin. So we thank you for Jesus. May he become more and more real to us today as we sing, listen, pray, reflect and commit this time to you now. And we ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

Song – How Great Thou Art

[How Great Thou Art with lyrics performed by chris rice - YouTube](#)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Oh Lord, my God
When I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed</p> <p>Chorus
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art</p> | <p>2. And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin</p> <p>Chorus</p> <p>3. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art</p> <p>Chorus</p> |
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Bible Reading – Matthew 18:15-20 (NIV)

15 "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16 But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' 17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. 18 "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Announcements

Focus for Month: Outreach. Why focus on outreach? Because the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is good

news for the lost, and love compels us not to keep that news to ourselves but to prayerfully and boldly share it with those who do not yet know him. Because the church does not exist for its own comfort but as God's chosen instrument to call people from darkness into light, making disciples who trust, obey, and worship Christ. And because eternity is real, outreach is not an optional extra but a joyful urgency—participating in God's mission to seek and save the lost for his glory.

Church Camp. This week over 160 people are away on our church camp. Back in the Hunter we will still be running our 3 normal services – but they might be a bit undermanned. So could you help out with morning tea, welcoming, or just seeing something that needs to be done and doing it? If so, it would be much appreciated.

Christ College Mission. Is now just 2 weeks away! Between Sunday 22nd and Sunday 29th March, between 8 to 10 students from Christ College will join us for a mission. We are busy organising activities for each day that they are with us. Involving the following activities

Sunday 22 nd March	Mainly introductions
Tues 24 th March	Young Adults Talk and Small Groups
Wed 25 th March	Mission team joining small groups
Fri 27 th March	Walk Up Evangelism. Would you like to help out?
Saturday 28 th March	2-4pm Women's Paint and Sip @ Charlestown Church 8-9:30am Men's Breakfast @ Swansea Church
Sunday 29 th March	Bring a Friend Services

Each Student will be billeted, so if you have capacity to accommodate one or two students, please let Jan Budim know on 0427 148 765.

Bring a Friend Sunday. We hope to invite our friends and our community to our new facilities where there will be not just our normal church services but a jumping castle, lunch and loads of activities for families to enjoy. So make sure you come and invite someone else to join you as well!

Annual Meeting. Will be held on Sunday 15th March from 11:20am at the Charlestown Church. At that meeting we will receive updates from the Session, Sparklers, Kids and Youth work and the Redevelopment. We will elect a new Committee of management and receive our annual financial statements; auditors certificate and the 2026 budget. We will also vote on two new elders joining our Session – Audric Sardjono and John Harris. All reports will be made available by electronic (or paper) means by next Sunday. All welcome to contribute.

Redevelopment. Many thanks to all those who have made suggestions about extra work to be done or issues that need to be ironed out. Please, keep them coming.

Jannah Pittman supporters Event. Next Saturday

Pastoral Prayer

Pray for Webbs. Prayer for the Yiyili Christians to continue to meet regularly. Thanks for the 5 people who attended leadership training there, run by Chris, learning the skill of bible story telling. Thank God for the joy whilst Chris conducted a Christian wedding where the bride, groom and bride's father, a respected Christian leader, boldly shared their faith. Prayer for Ezra, Daniel and Emily all now back to high school.

Pray for Syria (Population 25 million, Christians 300,000) The situation for Christians in Syria has grown more dire in the last year. Since the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024, the country has largely been controlled by an Islamic extremist group with roots in al-Qaeda. Pray for converts from Islam to find love and fellowship after being rejected by family and friends. Pray for victims of the Damascus church attack in June 2025, that their wounds and hearts will be healed. Pray that believers will lean solely on God in the face of constant uncertainty.

Pray for peace in the middle east. Peace between nations where they resolve their differences without bloodshed. Peace within a nation where each nation works towards a government that cares for the people rather than oppresses their people. The peace of God within each nation, where the good news of Jesus can be preached in each nation and everyone has a chance to turn to Him and be saved.

Pray for our elders (Ross, Steve, Mal, Rob & David) and our deacons (Doug, Jo, Karen and Robynne) as they lead our spiritual and pastoral work of our church. Pray that our elders and deacons would shepherd and serve with humility, wisdom, and courage, faithfully holding to God's Word and relying daily on his grace. Ask the Lord to guard their families, sustain their joy in Christ, and make their leadership a blessing that strengthens the unity and witness of our church.

Bible Reading – Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. 23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold[g] was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. 26 "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' 27 The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go. 28 "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.[h] He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. 29 "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' 30 "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. 32 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Song – His mercy is more <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAa2C1yoQ-0>

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|--|---|
| <p>1. What love could remember
no wrongs we have done
Omniscient, all knowing,
He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea
without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many,
His mercy is more</p> | <p>Chorus x2
Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more</p> |
| <p>2. What patience would wait
as we constantly roam
What Father, so tender,
is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest,
the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many,
His mercy is more</p> | <p>3. What riches of kindness
He lavished on us
His blood was the payment,
His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt
we could never afford
Our sins they are many,
His mercy is more</p> |
| | <p>Chorus x2</p> |

Sermon – Messy Church! (Stephen T)

Most people don't leave church because they stop believing in Jesus. They leave because their church gets messy. A friendship breaks down. A conversation never happens. An offence is quietly stored away. A conflict is dealt with poorly. Problems just never seem to be resolved. Which means, for many Australians, church conflict feels like a dealbreaker.

“If this is what Christian community is like,” they think, “I’m out.” “I love Jesus” they say to one another, “but I am disappointed by the Church & especially his people who go there.”

Slide 2

Jesus knows this reality. And Matthew 18 is his loving, realistic preparation for life together. Here Jesus speaks directly to the messiness of real relationships and shows us how the King’s mercy reshapes a messy Church. Now on first reading, what we are looking at today looks like three disconnected passages. But it’s not – it’s one flowing argument where...

Matthew 18:15–17 tells us what we must do to deal with church problems.

Matthew 18:18–20 tells us how we are helped by Christ’s Presence

Matthew 18:21–35 tells us who we must be: forgiving people shaped by mercy

Slide 3

1. So, let’s begin with Church Problems (verses 15-17)

15 “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16 But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ 17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”

Slide 4

It’s a four-step plan to deal with conflict. Go and gain. If that doesn’t work Establish Evidence. If that doesn’t work Church Censure and if that doesn’t work treat them as a tax collector. And each step has one aim and one goal – to win back your brother or sister.

In 1 Corinthians 5, Paul tells us that Church discipline protects the flock from false teaching. Here Jesus is saying it is one way we can help the lost sheep find its way back into the fold. For every Christian, every one of Jesus sheep, is valuable to him and we as Christians and as a Church should value them also. Value them so much that if they are caught in sin, we should gently and patiently try and bring them to repentance.

And notice the person who starts this process is not the minister or the elder but the one who has been sinned against. They are the ones to go and gain them back. This is so often where we go wrong. Often in our hurt we complain to others. Or we gossip to someone else about what has happened. Or we ask the minister to go around and fix the problem. But the call here is to go ourselves: brother to brother, sister to sister, sinner to sinner.

Keep the circle of those in the know deliberately small. For the more it gets out, the harder it is for your brother or sister to be restored. And that’s what we want to happen, for the relationship to be restored. So, go. Don’t send a text, an email, a letter. Maybe don’t even pick up the phone, go, go in person. So, they can see your love and your concern for them. Hear the gentle tone in your voice. This is important. Because the person involved is important. Go to them in order to gain them back.

But if that doesn’t work bring along a couple of others to establish evidence. And these others are not your best friends who will back you up and help you get the outcome you desire but they might be the other persons friends or wise, neutral observers who will listen to both sides of the story and seek to sift through the evidence they are hearing.

Just like in the OT, the law says that any charge should be backed up by two or three witnesses, so any action of this sort should also have two or three witnesses. But keep the circle still as small as possible. And

notice the tone of the passage where the word listen, listen, listen appears again & again. But if that doesn't work, then work take it to the church.

Maybe the whole assembly but in my experience that can get very messy. Maybe better the Church leadership, people that have been set aside to lead your congregation in spiritual matters. With the help of the persons testimony and the two or three witnesses the Church can make a judgement in the hope that the relationship can be restored and repentance, wherever it is needed, can be achieved. And if that doesn't work?

Treat them like a tax collector. Ask them to leave the church, until the work of God is freshly done in their life. For you don't ignore a pagan or a tax collector, you want to have a good relationship with them in the hope of sharing the good news with them. But they are not your spiritual brother or sister. But the door is always open for any tax collector to come in and join the church fellowship, if there is evidence of repentance and faith.

Slide 5

Now each of these steps are difficult. But they are commands of Jesus. They are his four steps to bring that lost sheep back into the fold. Asking them to leave the church might seem harsh and unloving but the one who is giving us these four steps is our gracious, loving saviour. Who wants all of his sheep to be safe and secure in the Kingdom.

But what if the person who sins against you has power over you? Or you are in physical danger from them? Surely Jesus doesn't want you to place yourself in the lion's den again? Well maybe then you will need help to do this or someone might step in and conduct this process on your behalf. But sin in the life of the Christian is serious business. Last week we were told that if our eye causes us to sin, we should gouge it out and if our hand causes us to sin, we should chop it off. Sin is incredibly damaging and must be dealt with directly, carefully, gently and prayerfully. And that's what Jesus wants us to help us to do here.

The process that Jesus outlines is private before public, loving before legal and relational before institutional. Church discipline is not punishment; it is **pastoral care** for the good of the sinner and the health of the church. Think of a fracture in a bone. Ignoring it doesn't make it heal — it just sets badly. Addressing it early may be painful, but it allows proper restoration. And this process is meant to bear witness to the good news of Jesus that we are all one in Christ Jesus.

Now let's admit that these principles seem hard to us. Everything in us wants to avoid awkward conversations, or recruit allies to our side but Jesus forbids both. Gossip feels easier than confrontation. Silence feels safer than truth. But both leave sin untouched and relationships unrepaired.

Slide 6

Now I have been involved in this sort of process a number of times, as the person who has been sinned against as well as the sinner. Its not easy. I don't like doing it. I wish I could palm it off to someone else. But at times it has led to my repentance and an apology and at other times it has meant winning back a brother or sister from sin. And at other times, it remained messy or to be honest got even messier. But as I often have to say to myself and others, our responsibility is to the right thing by others but there is no guarantee that they will do the right thing by you. And we can't force that to happen. You must leave it in God's hands.

But because this is so, so hard, how are we going to get the strength to love our fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord like this? That is where the next part of our passage comes in. At this time, we will need to draw upon

Slide 7

2. Christ's Presence (verses 18-20)

18 *"Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."* A couple of chapters ago Jesus said something similar to Peter when he gave him the keys to the kingdom. But now he is talking to the whole Church. But what does it mean?

It means that if you follow Jesus' word, if you seek repentance and restoration, if you act humbly and carefully, heaven stands behind you. You are not acting alone but with the authority that God has given his body of believers, the Church.

Which should drive us to prayer. 19 *"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."*

You normally only hear these verses when we pray together in Church or in a small group but in the original context this is all about dealing with a brother or sister who needs to be restored. The Church will be granted Christ's support when they do the tough things in the midst of a messy Church. Restoring relationship feels risky, invites misunderstand and can go painful wrong. So, pray about this. Give it over to Him. And Jesus says I will be with you.

Slide 8

Jesus is not the distant founder but the living head of the Church. All authority exercised rightly in the Church flows from his word and he is available to provide the wisdom that you need as you deal with any messy situation. And his presence will strengthen you to do the tough, unpopular thing of stepping into a difficult situation and seeking the good of all.

Slide 9

The promise of Christ's presence isn't given to us to escape Church problems, but to face them faithfully. Here Jesus is saying to a messy Church "when you obey me in the hardest moments, heaven backs you, and I will stand with you." Now can I say that's true on both sides of the issue. If the Church is doing the right thing in seeking to bring a lost sheep back into the fold, the Lord is with them as they do that. But also, if you are seeking to deal with a problem in the church and the Church doesn't want to acknowledge the problem and you are doing it in the right way, then Jesus is with you and prayer will enable you & strengthen you as you seek repentance and restoration in the midst of this very messy situation.

In other words, Jesus is saying to you and me today: "When you do the hardest thing I've asked you to do, I will not leave you to do it alone." This can give us confidence, when we are tempted to seek an easier way. Relationships will fracture. Conversations will be awkward. Church problems are messy, emotional and relationally costly. But we are not doing this on our own! Jesus is giving us authority, granting us his support & guaranteeing us his presence.

Slide 10

3. Church Problems, Christ's Presence and **thirdly Forgiving People (verses 21-35)**

If we are people who must pursue restoration and if Christ is going to help us in that very difficult task, then we will need to be forgiving people who are shaped by God's mercy. 21 *"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?'"* 22 *Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'*

Now I think that is a reasonable question to ask someone that you consider wise. When is enough, enough? When are you just wasting your time with someone? When do you have to say, for their sake as well as your own, that from now on they have to learn the harsh realities of life? *"So, Jesus, how many times should I forgive?"*

Well, the religious leaders of the time, the Pharisees had come to a bit of an agreement on this one. They thought, that you should forgive someone three times, and on the fourth time, you had every right to say, "sorry mate, no more." So, Peter was being very gracious by rising the Pharisee's three times to seven. Why that's more than double!

Slide 11

But Jesus answer staggers him, not just three times or even seven times, but seventy times seven. He couldn't believe his ears! Seventy times seven? He got out his phone and punched in the numbers. That's 490 times!

But Jesus isn't suggesting that we count the number of times we forgive someone -- 298, 299, 300 -- only 190 to go! Not at all. A while ago, I heard of a Christian minister asking his wife to forgive him for something he did. Before she could answer he reminded her that Jesus wanted her to forgive him 490 times. She laughed & said, "Buddy, you're already well over 500 -- but I'll forgive you anyway!" 70 times 7! Really what Jesus is saying, we need to forgive someone and then keep on forgiving them.

Slide 12

So, what are we to do? We are to be people of forgiveness. Rather than being people of revenge and saying "I'm going to get even!" Rather than being people of resentment and saying "I'm going to stay angry!" Rather than be people who remember and who say "I'll never forget!" We need to be people of forgiveness. Forgiveness needs to become a reflex action, a constant attitude, a lifestyle that marks the Christians as a follow of Jesus.

Before we go on lets quickly deal with two really important issues. Firstly, does someone have to repent before you forgive them? Well, that's the ideal, isn't it? Someone hurts you; they repent and then you need to work out whether you will forgive them or not. In that case if you forgive, the relationship can be restored. The person has said sorry, you have accepted that apology, the problem between you can be removed. It should no longer keep you apart. That's the ideal.

But I think you can still forgive someone if they don't repent. So, if they have died or if they don't feel they have done anything wrong, that hurt can be removed from your side. Given over to God. No longer nursed within you. You may not be able to forget it, but every time it comes to you, you can gently remind yourself that God has forgiven you, you have forgiven them and because of that I will again hand the issue over to God for his help to go forward. Yes, you can forgive if they don't repent but the relationship will never be fully restored.

Secondly, should you forgive an abuser? Well, you are going to need supernatural help in order to do that. But granting forgiveness doesn't mean trust is restored. Trust must be earned. There is a good chance the relationship may never go back to where it was before. That might mean you never place yourself in a situation to be abused again. But forgiveness is not just a good thing for the person who has sinned against you. It also helps us as well.

Slide 13

It might mean we open the prison doors for the offender so they can go free but it also means we don't have to be the jailor keeping them in prison. So, forgiveness is a way of setting yourself free by letting them go free as well. And the only way we will ever be able to do that will be to remember that God firstly set us free from our own prison of sin.

Slide 14

23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. 26 "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, '& I will pay back everything.' 27 The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go."

Jesus tells his disciples a parable about forgiveness which has three scenes. Scene 1 is about mercy received. A man racks up a debt of a thousand bags of gold. Actually, the original Greek uses the highest unit of currency, a talent and the highest number available at that time, 10,000 to signify to us that this is the greatest debt that anyone could ever rack up. We might say today a \$zillion. And yet the master forgives this debt. He doesn't get the servant to repay this debt, he never could, instead there is a complete remission of that debt.

And this part of the parable is meant to remind us of the debt that God Himself wiped clean from our account. Our sins before God are the equivalent of zillions of dollars. And we would never be able to pay that debt back. But in his amazing grace, we received mercy. Because Jesus paid the entire debt on our behalf. He died on the cross in the place of the sins of the world meant that the price has been paid and forgiveness has been granted to you and me.

Slide 16

So how does the forgiven man in Jesus' parable, respond to such amazing grace? Let's look at scene 2, mercy refused. 28 *"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. 29 'His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' 30 'But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. "*

The forgiven man is reminded that someone owes him some money. And it is a substantial amount, 100 denarii, the equivalent of 4 months wages. So not a small amount but nothing like the amount he has been forgiven. That was approx. 600,000 times greater than the debt he is now owed. But despite hearing the same cry for mercy that the man himself had just given to his own debtor, that mercy is refused.

Slide 17

And that is a picture of what you and I can be like. Having been forgiven our zillion dollars of debt by God Himself, we often fail to forgive our spouse, our kids, our Church family, our work mates, our neighbours, the costly things they do to us. We forgive them seven times not seventy times seven. We nurse our grudges. We hold onto our debts & we fail to realise that those who receive mercy should be the ones who constantly show mercy to others.

Slide 18

So, scene 3 ends with mercy reversed. 31 *"When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. 32 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed."*

Slide 19

Before the chilling summary. 35 *"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."* God puts his precious gift of forgiveness in our hands, not to clench our fists and keep it to ourselves but to open up our hands and give it to others. Now there is no doubt that it not easy to forgive. That's it not natural to forgive. However, it is Christian to forgive. For we follow a forgiving Saviour. But if we fail to forgive others, then we place our own forgiveness at risk. A failure to forgive others might be a sign that you have not sought God's forgiveness for your own sins.

Slide 20

Which means you and I should examine ourselves. Ask ourselves, is there someone I can't forgive? Someone that I am holding a grudge against? Someone whose wrongdoing continues to appear before my conscious again and again? If so, the answer is clear. You must forgive! It might take time. You might never forget. The hurt might never go away. But Jesus forgave you a much bigger debt and he promises to be with you as you offer that mercy you have received to those around you who need that mercy themselves.

Slide 21

In conclusion, many Australians walk away from church not because of doctrine, but because of unresolved hurt. But here, Jesus offers a better way — not an easy way, but a redemptive one. A church shaped by Matthew 18 is not conflict-free, but it is gospel-rich: problems are addressed, not ignored. Christ's presence is trusted, not assumed. Forgiveness flows from gratitude, not pressure. And at the centre stands Jesus himself: confronting sin truthfully, forgiving sin extravagantly, and standing with his people in the middle of all the mess.

A messy church that lives like this doesn't become perfect — but it becomes safe, humble, and deeply attractive. Not because the people are impressive, but because the King is present and merciful. And that is how the church becomes not a place people escape from, but a place where grace does its deepest work. Yes, churches are messy but when God's grace takes hold of the church, it can become a powerful witness to the grace of King Jesus.

Song – Yet not I but Christ in me

[CityAlight ~ Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me \(Lyrics\) - YouTube](#)

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|--|---|
| <p>1. What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to His
Oh how strange and divine,
I can sing, "All is mine"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me</p> | <p>3. No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released,
I can sing, "I am free"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me</p> |
| <p>2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won,
and I shall overcome
Yet not I, but through Christ in me</p> | <p>4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I, but through Christ in me</p> |

Benediction. 18 *"Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."* (Matthew 18:18-20)