

Sunday 20th September, 2026

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Prayer

As we begin our service of worship this morning let's remind ourselves of the great God we are coming before. So I am going to start off with a reading from Psalm 46. *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."* (NIV)

Prayer God our Refuge, when human resources fail, you alone remain our sure hope and defense. In the knowledge of your love, grant us courage. We place ourselves in your hands, confident that nothing can separate us from your love. We praise you for Jesus, the Living One, the First and the Last, who was dead, but now is forever alive. Help us, who have not seen, to believe; send us, as you have sent Jesus, to greet the world with the Easter word of peace and to share with all the Spirit's new life of forgiveness. We ask through the Lord Jesus, our Passover and our Peace, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Song – How great is our God

1. The splendour of a King,
clothed in majesty
Let all the Earth rejoice
All the Earth rejoice
He wraps himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
Trembles at His voice

Chorus: How great is our God,
sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God

2. Age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the end
Beginning and the end

The Godhead Three in One
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

Chorus

Bridge: Name above all names
Worthy of our praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God
You're the name above all names
You are worthy of our praise
And my heart will sing
How great is our God

Chorus x2

Bible Reading – Psalm 133:1-3 (NIV)

1 "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! 2 It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe. 3 It is

as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore."

Announcements

Focus for the month: Growth. Growth is a team effort. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3 "I planted the seed, Apollos watered, but God made it grow." That shows us that while we all need to be dependent upon God for any growth, that doesn't mean we aren't also to roll up our sleeves and play our part. So I wonder what your part is? With our young people, our growing young adults, in a small group, taking a lead in the worship service or quietly behind the scenes in caring for others, cleaning the facilities or bringing everything to God in prayer. This month clarify what part you will play as we all seek a growth in God's kingdom.

School Holidays. NSW schools finish their term 3 at the end of this week and head off for two weeks well deserved holidays. Next weekend all our regular activities will also go into recess to give our faithful Creche, kids Church, SPARKLERS, IMPACT, Bible Study leaders a good break as well. From next Sunday our kids will stay in the services but there will be kids packs for all those in primary school if required.

A list of jobs. After our recent Work Day at Charlestown there are still a list of jobs that are still to be done, some small, some bigger. We are putting this list on the notice board in the gathering space and so if you have some spare time (and the necessary skill!) to complete a job, then find one that would work for you and then speak to either Greg or Stephen T so that we can coordinate a way forward.

Farewell. Today we say farewell to Baffour and Portia who are moving to Sydney to be closer to Baffour's job. We wish you God's richest blessing as you take this next chapter in your families life.

Position Vacant. Please pray for us as we work out our best option for our next Admin Assistant. In the meantime, all the admin type emails will be redirected toward Stephen for his attention.

Taste of Africa. Thanks for the generosity of all those who supported our recent Taste of Africa night. The final Funds raised for Mogra Children's Home was \$4,207.50. These will be sent off to them very soon. A special thanks to all those who organised the hall, food and entertainment for the night – it was a special evening.

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. It's time to collect your boxes and have fun filling them during the next month or have a box filled on your behalf for \$25. Please contact Kathryn O'Callaghan or Grace Baker for further details. You may also like to search occ.samaritanspurse.org.au for ideas to fill your box and some inspiring short videos.

Position Vacant. Please pray for us as we work out our best option for our next Admin Assistant. In the meantime, all the admin type emails will be redirected toward Stephen for his attention. Which means if you would normally go to Sam for help, please contact Stephen until we appoint our new admin assistant.

Big Topics. We are hoping to provide a chance to get together and discuss some big topics together. These will not be seminars but round table discussions where those who are interested will read (or watch) something in preparation, before meeting up to pool ideas. The first of these topics will be AI and Us and will be held at the Charlestown Church from 11:45-12:45 on Sunday 25th October. All welcome.

Term 4 preaching programme

Romans 1-8

Sunday @ 6

Romans 9-16

Swansea/Charlestown AM

Song – The Church One Foundation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCdASxyPIKE>

1. The church's one Foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is His new creation,
by water and the Word;
from heav'n He came and sought her
to be His holy bride;

3 Tho' with a scornful wonder,
men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, "How long?"

with His own blood He bought her,
and for her life He died.

And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

2. Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy Name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.

4. Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with Thee.

Pastoral Prayer Points

Pray for Mexico (Population 130 million. Christians 124 million). Christians face intimidation and abuse from gangs and drug cartels. Pray that God will thwart their plans for evil. Pray for Christians who encounter heavy persecution when sharing the gospel. Ask God to protect and encourage them. Pray for foreign missionaries in Mexico as they seek to encourage and walk alongside Mexican believers.

Pray for those who are homeless. Heavenly Father, we pray for those experiencing homelessness across the Hunter region, asking that you would provide safe shelter, food, protection and people who will treat them with dignity and compassion. We thank you for the organisations, churches, volunteers and government services seeking to care for people who are vulnerable, and pray that you would give them wisdom, perseverance and the resources they need. Above all, Lord, remind us that every person is made in your image and needs not only a home but the hope and salvation found in Jesus Christ, and move us as your people to love our neighbours generously and practically.

Pray for Josh Montzka (Power to Change) Please pray that his long-awaited Long Service Leave rejuvenates Josh mentally, spiritual and physically. Please be praying that Josh listens & hear God during his long service leave for what He wants from him in the coming years. Please pray all the videos he is working on will come together to glorify God attracting many new people to Him through the digital space.

Continue to pray for the people of Ambae as they deal with the terrible tragedy of the sinking of the MV Matui

Pray for our walking groups (both our men and women's groups meet fortnightly!) That this would be an opportunity to invite others along who could benefit from building closer relationship to Christians within our community. That they might be a good support mechanism for those who are going through difficult times.

Bible Reading – Ephesians 4:1-6 (NIV)

4 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Sermon: The beauty of unity (Stephen T)

We live in an increasingly divided and fractured world. If you look at world events – Ukraine, Iran, China, we see nations fighting against nation, each completing for power and control. When you look at politics we see we can no longer stand just two parties but the right and left are not just fighting each other but splintering into smaller interest groups. When we go onto social media, we find an echo chamber where

more and more people get convinced that what they believe is not just the right way but the only way. And add to that the divide between rich and poor, young and old, men and women, city and country.

And nowhere is that divide bigger than the incredibly difficult issue of immigration. Western society is increasingly scared of what it is becoming because the nations are no longer staying in their own nation but are migrating to our nation and bringing their culture, their religion, their differences into our own backyard.

Slide 2

But in the midst of such division and tension, the Church has the best solution. Sometimes, not always, but sometimes you can walk into a worship service on Sunday morning and you see people from different nations, who speak different languages, who celebrate different cultures and who are of different age ranges, with different educational backgrounds and different political opinions and different personalities. And they are all singing the same song. Listening to the same Bible passage being read. Praying to the same heavenly father. Putting their trust in the same Saviour. And calling each other brother and sister.

Slide 3

That's the beauty of unity. And Psalm 133 wants to remind us that unity is good, so let's take a long look at it. That unity has an aroma, so let's take a deep breath through our noses and smell it. That unity is refreshing so let's again feel what it's like. And that this sort of unity is God's blessing to us so we just have to open our hands to receive it. Starting with...

Slide 4

1. UNITY IS GOOD — Look at it! (v.1)

Psalm 133. "A song of ascents. Of David. 1 *"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"* King David has written this Psalm and it has found its way into the hymnbook for the people of God as they ascend up the hill on their way to Mt Zion. You see three times each year, people from every tribe within the nation of Israel left behind their home life in order to come to Jerusalem to worship God.

Young and old, Benjaminite and Gadite, rich and poor, healthy and sick would make their way to the temple and as they approached their destination there was this mingling of all sorts of people and they would come together and sing in anticipation of their time with the Lord. And we got a bit of an idea of what that looks like when in the world cup soccer in America, each nation's supporters would meet together at a designated point, often a pub, and walk to the stadium as a nation singing and chanting together.

Slide 5

The unity not just of a family, not even just of a nation, but of God's people coming together to worship the Lord, that's the sort of unity that God desires. So *"how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity."* There's something about the harmony of God's people, the sheer pleasure of a gathering of God's people. It's not just good in the sight of God. But it is enjoyable for God's people as well. This is how the world was meant to be!

Slide 6

Think for a moment of an orchestra. At one stage in the rehearsal each section is concentrating on their own parts. So, you have the violins, cellos, trumpets, lutes, percussion all doing their own bit. But then the conductor puts them all together. Playing the one piece of music and something beautiful happens. Each instrument makes a different sound but it complements each other. Producing something good and pleasant for all involved.

So, if you are experiencing that sort of unity, celebrate it. Because it is scarce, incredibly scarce in this modern world. And if you don't know the joy that this psalm is describing or you are not currently experiencing the sheer pleasure of such unity, pursue it. Chase it. Pray for it. Desire it. Maybe it is too much to ask for a unified world or even a unified nation but we were made to be a unified Church & God would love for us to be unified in our families.

But why? Why is the unity of God's people such a good and pleasant thing for us to enjoy? Because God is one. God is three persons but still one God. And Jesus prays in John 17:21 *"that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you."* Our unity reflects God's unity. It is part of God's good design for his people.

On top of that there is something attractive about unity, isn't there? Jesus goes on to pray in John 17:23, *"May they be brought to complete unity to let the world will know that you sent me and have them even as you have loved me."* Our unity is part of our witness. The world is accustomed to division—political division, racial division, generational division, social division, personal rivalry. But when people who are genuinely different love one another because they share Christ, something supernatural becomes visible. The church says, in effect: "Look at what Jesus has done." Because there is something attractive about unity.

Unity also protects us from a common enemy, Satan. Division is death is a true saying. In families, in political parties but also in Churches. Satan doesn't need to destroy a church from the outside if he can create bitterness, suspicion, gossip, factions and rivalry on the inside. Unity also creates an environment where people flourish. It is the soil that they can become whoever God wants them to become. And unity points us to the gospel of Jesus.

Ephesians 2:14 says of Christ: *"For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups (Jew and Gentile) one."* The cross doesn't simply reconcile us to God; it also reconciles us to one another. So, when Christians forgive, love, serve and bear with one another, we are putting the gospel on display. Our unity is evidence of the reconciling power of Jesus. So, unity is good & pleasant. It's like a pastor's beard & like wet grass. Huh? That doesn't make any sense! Well King David wants us to notice that

Slide 8

2. UNITY HAS AN AROMA — Smell it! (v.2)

2 *"It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe."* That picture doesn't really communicate all that terribly well to us today, does it? If anything it sounds just a little bit yucky, kind of messy, a little unpleasant. Oil – you can imagine it, sort of trickling through your hair, running over your face, all over your clothes. No thank you! Who wants that?

But think about it for a moment. Aaron was the first high priest and his job was to go into the presence of God with an animal that he has just sacrificed for the sins of his people and that animal sacrifice would smell awful. Not just the wild outdoor smell but mixed with it was the smell of blood and guts and faeces. So, Aaron would also be anointed with oil, a special sweet-smelling oil, that would take away the stench.

Slide 9

This is more than a shower in a can, what I used to use instead of a shower after a soccer game, and wondered why all the girls stayed away from me. It's more than a dab of perfume or aftershave before we go out for a big night. More than candle to give a room a mood. This is a whole stack of candles, a number of presses of that fine perfume, because the oil is not just stopping on Aaron's head gear but it is running down onto his beard and then onto his clothing. This is not a dab it's a drenching.

Friends, unity has this sort of an aroma. It's like a plentiful, generous abundance of oil, that spreads and spills. Even onto the part of Aaron's tunic, spilling over the precious jewels, that represents the 12 tribes of Israel, the whole family of God. This oil cannot be confined or contained, both its substances and its smell, reaches all those who are near and far.

Slide 10

But let me take this picture just a little bit further. Because oil in the OT pointed to the spirit of God. And here we see that the oil and the spirit flows from the head to the body. From the head of the high priest to the body of believers he represents.

Unity, the psalmist is saying, is the special work of the Holy Spirit who consecrates us and makes us one and who sweetens and makes fragrant that unity so that everyone who sees it and experiences it will be moved by its loveliness. Just like a room filled with this fragrant aroma, unity has an aroma. Just as a division has a stench. You can smell it a million miles away, can't you?

Slide 11

You walk into a room with a scented candle and you can smell it. You walk into a room where there is a dead mouse and you can smell that as well. And so, when God's people are divided it will turn others away. When we fight and gossip and slander and divide, it pushes people away. But when we love and forgive and care and remain unified despite our differences, Paul says in 2 Corinthians 2:15 we are the "the pleasing aroma of Christ."

So, the next time you are putting on perfume or aftershave or lighting a candle, think and pray about unity in these terms. What aroma am I giving off? How I can help the sweet-smelling good news of Jesus to not just be heard but smelt in all that I do today at home, at work and within the Church. Ask yourself, can I forgive someone who has hurt me today? Can I seek to reconcile two friends who are fighting today? Can I have that difficult conversation today? For unity is like a pastor's beard and it is also like wet grass. What?

Slide 12

3. UNITY IS REFRESHING — Feel it! (v.3a)

David changes the picture moving from oil to water. 3 *"It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion."* Mount Hermon is the highest mountain within Israel. Often snowcapped, the melting snow gave life to the plant life of the region. And in the summer the dew was heavy, sustaining that life. Whereas Mt Zion was 180 kilometres south, not so tall and very arid and desert like. The Psalm then is imagining what life Mt Zion could sustain if it got the dew from Hermon? It would surely refresh the entire landscape.

It would become more like the garden of Eden, where not only was there an abundance of life, but that was also where the presence of God was. So, the unity of God's people is where God meets with his people, refreshes them and give them life, abundant life.

Slide 13

The picture we might use today here in Australia is the transformation of Lake Eyre. Normally it is a vast, dry, seemingly lifeless basin, but when the rains come and water travels down the rivers and flood channels into the lake, an extraordinary transformation takes place. Water brings life, birds arrive, fish appear, the landscape changes, and there is a sense of joy and abundance in a place that had seemed empty. **So, it is with Christian unity.**

When God's people stop competing and start caring, when forgiveness replaces resentment and generosity replaces selfishness, something life-giving flows through the whole community. People who are weary are refreshed, lonely people find belonging, and the church becomes a place where people flourish. **Unity is not merely peaceful—it is life-giving.** Like water flowing into a dry lake, like oil spilling down off a high priest's head, God's grace brings life and refreshment. It has such a sweet aroma to all who smell it

Slide 14

Church conflict is exhausting and life sapping. Fights and arguments amongst family members is draining. But unity restores and refreshes. And God's plan is for that sort of restoration to come through his people as he showers on them his amazing grace.

You know when we are spiritually dry or harassed and troubled, we tend to avoid people. I don't want to have to explain myself again. I don't want to talk about what is going on. I'm tired, stressed, better to stay

away and recharge my own batteries. But Psalm 133 says, don't do that. Come to worship. Fellowship with God's people. Enjoy the community of believers. Look at it. Smell it. Feel it and lastly receive it. For lastly...

Slide 15

4. UNITY IS BLESSED — Receive it! (v.3b)

Because there is a link between the vertical and the horizontal. When there is unity amongst believers on the horizontal plane, there is the place where God's vertical blessings are found. For fellowship with the Lord and fellowship with the Lord's people are linked. To be in right relationship with God's people helps us to be in right relationship with God Himself. And of course, the other side is true, to be in right relationship with God leads to right relationships with his sons and daughters.

Slide 16

"For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore." Where? There! In Zion. The place where God's people meet to worship God Himself. Those blessings are not found in self help or a radical, expressive individualism. They are not found just watching livestream services or even listening to your favourite preacher on the radio on the internet. The only place you can find them in this broken world is amongst God's broken people. Who meet together to worship the Lord and ask that their brokenness might be healed by Jesus.

Today in this building and in millions of places around the nation and the world, we find a melting pot of ethnicities, ages and stages of people who are united because God the Father, by the anointing of the Holy Spirit, has made us one in Christ Jesus. We are one. And in that unity God blesses his people.

Slide 17

What a gift we have within our possession. What a gift we have in the church? A gift for God's people to enjoy, a gift for the world to see. For today our doors are open for anyone to come in to taste and to see that the Lord is good. This shouldn't be a dry as dust academic lecture hall, instead it is a place where people can look at the unity of God's people, smell it, feel it and open their hands to receive it. Is that what you thought you were coming to experience this morning? If not adjust your expectations and see the unity of God's people is a real blessing to us all from the Lord.

You see this Psalm was written by King David. And he knew an awful lot about disunity. He inherited an Israel struggling with division amongst its 12 tribes. He knew what it was like for brothers to fight brothers, tribes to fight tribes and God's people to be torn apart. His own son at one time took over the kingdom from him and sent his own father into exile. Amongst the desert regions. And yet David also saw the effect of unity when the nation came together and worshipped together and served together. Great things could be done.

So as the pilgrims ascend up the hill to mount Zion, he writes a song not about going ups but coming downs. Human effort reaching up to God will not create this type of unity nor produce the blessings from God that you and I desire. Instead, like oil poured down onto a head, running down onto Aarons beard, **running down** onto Aarons robes. Like dew **falling down** on Mount Zion. God gives us the spiritual gift of unity as a vehicle containing his richest blessings.

Slide 18

The pilgrims climb upward, but the **blessing comes downward**. That is the theology of the Psalm. We ascend to worship, but God descends to bless. Human effort never creates unity. God's grace does. And that leads to a beautiful gospel principle. James put it this way in James 1:17, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights." You see, even our unity is ultimately a gift of God's grace.

Slide 19

The apostle Paul puts it this way in Ephesians 4,³ *"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were*

called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

You see God creates the unity; He gives the unity. It's our job not to disrupt the unity, not to break up the unity, not to take for granted the unity but to maintain the unity. Jesus is the one we are unified around. Not a Church building or a denomination or even a set of beliefs. The basis of our unity is that we all need to trust in Jesus' death and resurrection. We need to rely upon the Spirit that God has poured out on this world. And we all need to worship the same father in spirit and in truth.

Slide 20

And do you know that was one of the last things that Jesus prayed for while he was here on earth. The unity of body of believers. So, we hear these words of Jesus from John 17, ²⁰ "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

Psalm 133 shows us the beauty of God's people living in unity. John 17 shows us why that unity matters. It is not simply pleasant for us—it is powerful for the world. Our unity becomes a visible demonstration of an invisible gospel. And here is the wonder: Jesus doesn't simply pray for our unity; he goes to the cross to create it. He takes divided, sinful people and makes them one new people **through his blood**. The cross is where our hostility dies, our pride is humbled, our forgiveness is secured and our spiritual family is formed.

Slide 21

So, Psalm 133 is not merely saying, "Wouldn't it be nice if Christians could get along?" It is giving us a glimpse of what the gospel creates. The fragrant oil, the refreshing dew, the blessing of life—all point us towards the extraordinary goodness of the blessings that God gives his people; the ones whom Jesus has reconciled to God and to one another.

The world should be able to look at the church and see something it cannot explain apart from Jesus: people who are different, yet love one another; people who disagree, yet forgive one another; people who could walk away, yet choose to stay together because Christ has made them one. Psalm 133 says, "How good and pleasant it is." Jesus says, I want the world to see it and believe in me because of it.

So, friends when you experience this sort of unity, praise God for it, for only God can do such a thing. And when you are not experiencing that sort of unity; pray for it, because only God can bring it about.

Slide 22

But let's end with this thought. Isn't it a little bit ironic that David, the one who saw how important the unity of God's people was, is the one who actually destroys this peace by his sin. One day when his armies are at war, while within a stone's throw of Mt Zion, he sees a woman bathing on the roof of her house and decides to take her for himself. And because of that one action, the prophet says to him, "The sword will never depart from your house."

But on that same mount, a thousand years later, the Son of God will die to give us peace. And what does Paul say about Him in Ephesians 2:15? "*He Himself is our peace.*" David disrupted the thing that he so valued in Israel; only for Jesus can give it back. Peace, unity, blessings can be destroyed by you and I, by our foolish actions. But Jesus wants us all to experience the goodness and pleasantness of our unity in Christ.

Slide 23

How good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity. Today, can we see it, smell it, feel it, and experience it? But also, realise that you and I can also destroy it. So, what are you and I going to do about the unity that God has blessed us with in Christ? Let's treasure it. Maintain it. Celebrate it. And

share it with those around us who live in a broken and fractured world. A world that needs our unity more than ever before.

Song – This I believe <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNiYUPsHgls>

1. Our Father everlasting
The all-creating One
God Almighty
Through your Holy Spirit
Conceiving Christ the Son
Jesus our Saviour

Bridge
I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord
(Repeat)

I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus
(In the name o' Lord)

Chorus

3. I believe in life eternal
I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion
And in Your Holy Church
I believe in the resurrection
When Jesus comes again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus

2. Our Judge and our Defender
Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness
You rose in glorious light
Forever seated high

Chorus

Chorus

Closing. 1 *“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity! 2 It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down on the collar of his robe. 3 It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.” (Psalm 133)*