

Sunday Service ~ March 1, 2026

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Prayer

So, join with us this morning to praise God, remembering David's words from Psalm 117: *Praise the Lord, all nations. Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.*

Prayer. Dear Father, From the time we wake in the morning, to the time we go to sleep at night we have so much to praise you for. We are surrounded by examples of your majesty, power and love. Your creation stares us in the face as we see the majesty of the sun and the rain, of plants and animals, the wonder of the bodies you have given us. You care for us, provide food and shelter, friends and family for us.

Yet, despite knowing all this, we don't always feel like acknowledging you. In times like this, as we struggle with sadness, we often think more about ourselves than about you. Forgive us, help us to return to you and remember your constant love, your promises to never leave us, to provide the best for us. We know that you will renew our hearts and souls, that through your Spirit we can have peace, that you will draw us close to you. Help us this morning not to be distracted, but instead to have clear heads and humble hearts, ready to acknowledge you, to come close to you & to learn of your purposes for us. In Jesus' name. Amen

Song – Heavenly Father, Beautiful Son

[Heavenly Father, Beautiful Son - YouTube](#)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Father, You loved me
Sent Your Son to redeem
Jesus, You washed me
By Your blood I am clean
Spirit, You've opened these blinded eyes
And brought me to Christ</p> | <p>2. Father, You gave me to Jesus to keep
And Jesus, You love me
As a shepherd, his sheep
Spirit, You've given me faith in the Son
And made our hearts one</p> |
|--|---|

*Chorus: Heavenly Father, beautiful Son
Spirit of light and truth
Thank You for bringing sinners to come to You*

3. Father, You're waiting to hear my requests
Jesus, Your loving open hand is outstretched
Spirit, You're in me, You intercede
And help in my need

Bible Reading – Matthew 17:24-27 (NIV)

24 After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma temple tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?" 25 "Yes, he does," he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own children or from others?" 26 "From others," Peter answered. "Then the children are exempt," Jesus said to him. 27 "But so that we may not cause offense, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

Announcements

Focus for Month: Outreach. If we are to grow in our faith one of the ways we can do that is to share our faith with others. They in turn will ask us questions, or push back against what you believe, or share their

own beliefs with you. All of these things help us to better rely upon the Lord and it makes us go back to the word of God for answers. I wonder, is there someone you can share your faith with this month?

Church Camp. We have had a massive response to our church camp with over 160 people planning to be there for lunch next Saturday. All those who have registered will now have received a camp email with final details. If you haven't received this as yet, please contact Liz Hyslop. If you aren't able to come, that's fine we will still be running all three services NEXT Sunday. But the Charlestown services will be a bit disrupted as between Monday 2nd and Friday 13th March we will be getting new windows in the Church that match the redevelopment. So, Church might look a little different next Sunday. But come along anyway and join in the worship!

Christ College Mission. 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
Saturday 28 th March	Women's Paint and Sip Men's Breakfast
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.

Finances

January Budgeted offerings	\$40,833
January Actual Offerings	\$32,054
January Deficit	\$8,779

January is often a slow month financially as people often forget to update their electronic transfers for the new year! Please consider your regular giving to the Church and if possible, make a regular contribution through direct deposit BSB 062 829 A/c 1019 4850.

World Day of Prayer. This Friday 6th March, Kahibah Anglican Church, 10am (Focus: Nigeria) for those in the Charlestown area.

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. We will probably have a couple of targeted work days in a month's time where we will give people a chance to work on a specific project. Please note that the seating and the sound are still a work in progress but we hope to have things settled down in the next few weeks.

Upcoming Events

Sunday 1/3	Breaking the Silence – Top Up Training	11:30-12 noon
Friday 6/3	JOY, 10am, Belmont	16 footers
	World Day of Prayer, Kahibah Anglican	10am
Friday 6/3	Church Camp begins	
Saturday 14/3	Jannah Pittman supporters Event.	

Pastoral Prayer

Pray for Josh Montzka. Praise God for a good time away. Better than expected. Even weirdly refreshing. Please pray that Josh may know God's wisdom, and creativity throughout this year. Please also pray for more new team members to join him to fill our gaps/capacity. Please pray for the kids/young adults, that he has shared the gospel with, would draw close to God. Please pray that he will find God's financial provision, to keep working this ministry.

Pray for end to the violent crime currently happening in Sydney. Gracious Father, we lament before you the rise of violent crime in Sydney, and we ask that you would restrain evil, protect the innocent, and uphold those who bear the sword for justice according to your good purposes. By your Spirit, turn hearts from lawlessness and fear to repentance, self-control, and love of neighbour, bringing renewal to homes, communities & especially to those most vulnerable. May your church be a beacon of light at this dark time.

Pray for Iran. Pray that the cycle of protest and repression would be broken and that peace, not bloodshed, would prevail across Iran. Pray for justice where crimes and abuses have occurred, for accountability without vengeance, and for the release and fair treatment of political prisoners. Pray for Iranian believers—both in the underground church and in exile—to be strengthened, courageous, and filled with Christ's love and truth in very difficult circumstances. Pray that the gospel would continue to spread even in hardship, and that the church would be a beacon of hope, reconciliation, and mercy in the midst of fear, uncertainty, and suffering.

Pray for the Church Camp. Give thanks to God for the 160+ people registered for Church Camp, and pray that it would be a joyful time of deep learning in his Word, rich fellowship, and shared fun together. Ask the Lord to use the camp to strengthen and unify our three congregations, growing us in love, partnership, and a shared vision for Christ's glory. Pray also for genuine intergenerational encouragement—that our young people would honour and learn from the wisdom of older saints, and that our older members would delight in, invest in, and value the faith and energy of the younger generation.

Bible Reading – Matthew 17:14-23 (NIV)

18 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. 3 And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. 6 "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. 7 Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come! 8 If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. 9 And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell. 10 "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. [11] [a] 12 "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? 13 And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. 14 In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

Song – There is one gospel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GZuSivURPk>

There is one Gospel on which I stand
For all eternity
It is my story, my Father's plan
The Son has rescued me
Oh what a Gospel, Oh what a peace

My highest joy and my deepest need
Now and forever He is my light
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
There is one Gospel to which I cling

All else I count as loss
 For there, where justice and mercy meet
 He saved me on the cross
 No more I boast in what I can bring
 No more I carry the weight of sin
 For He has brought me from death to life
 I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

There is one Gospel where hope is found
 The empty tomb still speaks
 For death could not keep my Saviour down
 He lives and I am free
 Now on my Saviour, I fix my eyes

My life is His and His hope is mine!
 For He has promised I, too, will rise
 I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

And in this Gospel the church is one
 We do not walk alone
 We have His Spirit as we press on
 To lead us safely home
 And when in glory still I will sing
 Of this old story that rescued me
 Praise to my Saviour, the King of life
 I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Sermon – The King’s Community. (Stephen T)

I wonder if you have ever been invited into an exclusive club? A club that has dress regulations that means you need to wear a suit and tie or an evening dresses and high heels. A club wear you sit around on stuffed lounges and eat off fine china? A club where the best food is served and the staff wait on you hand and foot? A club that you can only get in there if you have paid your dues or if you are personally invited into its hallowed walls?

Now I can only ever remember being in such a club once or twice in my life. And when I was there, I didn’t feel like a fitted in, for it just wasn’t me. But that didn’t stop me from enjoying that privileged status for the evening that I was there. But I wonder, is God’s community like that privileged club? Access by invitation only? Nothing but the best for those who come in? A place where the important people in God eyes meet and enjoy his good provisions?

Slide 2

That’s what the next part of Matthew’s gospel is all about. The King’s Community. But it is not concentrating on what that community will enjoy but how that community should act while in the king’s presence. And the idea that appears in each of the four sections that we are looking at today is **children**. For while discussing the temple tax, Jesus calls those in his community **sons**, children of the heavenly father. Then we find out that the greatest in the kingdom are the ones who humbles themselves like a **little child**. Before warning people to look after **these little ones** and make sure that **none of these little ones** is ever lost.

Slide 3

The idea being is that if you want to be a part of God’s community, if you are trying to work out the sort of behaviour that you and I need to follow in God’s church, it is all about remembering that God’s people is made up of his children. This is not an exclusive club where we are the centre of attention, this is a gathering of people who know their place, and follow the example of the Son of God, Jesus whose life should shape everything we do and say. So, what that means in practice, is that firstly, we should be

Slide 4

1. Secure not self-focussed (Matthew 17:24-27)

24 *“After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma temple tax came to Peter and asked, “Doesn’t your teacher pay the temple tax?”*

Now this episode in Jesus’ life is only recorded by one of the gospel writers, Matthew. He used to be a former tax collector for the Romans, so this incident about the collection of tax for the temple must have stuck in his mind. For the question is asked, should Jesus pay the tax that was levied on all males over 18

years of age, except rabbis, to pay for the priests and the whole sacrificial system in the temple? Does he pay this tax or is he exempt?

Slide 5

25 *“Yes, he does,” he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. “What do you think, Simon?” he asked. “From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their **own children** or from others?”* 26 *“From others,” Peter answered. “Then the children are exempt,” Jesus said to him.*”

Kings ask their subjects to pay tax, not their sons. And so, if God’s temple needs finance, surely God wouldn’t want his one and only son to pay for its upkeep. His perfect son Jesus has no need for a priest or even a blood sacrifice, does he?

Slide 6

27 *“But so that we may not cause offense, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.”*

Jesus is free to not pay the tax. And Peter being part of the family of God shouldn’t have to pay the temple tax either. But they will not stand on their rights because they don’t want to cause offense to others. They will show their love for others by relinquishing their rights.

So, Jesus gives Peter instructions on how to pay the tax. Now you get the impression that Jesus didn’t carry around much cash. But he happens to know where to find the exact amount of money. So, we hear about a very fishy tale. Where Jesus just happens to know of a fish that has a four-drachma coin in its mouth who will coincidentally be swimming near the shore in 10 minutes time. Peter, just throw in a line & you will have all the money you need.

Slide 7

This Jesus continues to amaze, doesn’t he? He has both divine knowledge and divine power. And yet he cares about not causing offense to the people around him, whenever he can. He is secure in who he is. Being the Son of God, he has no need to do anything for anyone. But Jesus doesn’t cling to his rights, he lays them down for others. And at the cross he will lay his life down for the sake of others. He is willing to die in order to bring outsiders into his family.

Think of a child who works in the family business and will one day inherit it from their parents. The other employees’ clock in, but the children of the boss don’t need to. But that doesn’t mean they won’t decide to work hard. The child can still put in long hours, not because they have to but **because they are secure** in their position. As sons and daughters. And that security can help them not to be self-focussed but now free to consider others.

Slide 8

Likewise, as sons and daughters of the King, we now have our status secure. We are part of God’s eternal family. That shouldn’t give us a sense of entitlement, meaning that everyone now should know who we are and serve us, instead it should free us to think about others. How not to cause offense to others. How we can use what we have been given for the sake of the Kingdom, doing all things to all men, in order that some might be saved. Which means at times we will lay down our legitimate rights and freedoms for the sake of others hearing the gospel. For the king’s community should reflect the character of our king Jesus. The son who used his position of security, not to further his own self-interest but to be

Slide 9

2. A servant of others in the way he modelled a **Humble Heart (Matthew 18:1-4)**

“At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” 2 *He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them.* 3 *And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you*

change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Children in those days had no rights, no influence and no status whatsoever. And that is what the children of the Kings community are like when they come into that community. It is not their actions that give them this secure status. It's Jesus sacrificial action of laying his life down for others that saves them. Its not achieved by works but by grace. And if they get into the kingdom by being like a little child and by being humbly dependent upon their heavenly father, that's how they should live as a part of God's earthly community, the Church.

Slide 10

They must have humble hearts. For greatness in the kingdom of heaven is not about status but service. Its not making yourself look big but small. It's not about being the boss, its all about being the servant. For isn't that what King Jesus is like?

Philippians 2 says that he left the status, security and position of heaven to humble himself, coming as a man, giving his life for the service of others, even dying on a cross. And we are called to be like him. For if we give our life to others, we will gain it. If we humble ourselves, he will lift us up. If we make ourselves small, then God himself will eventually make us big.

Real greatness is found in humble hearts. Real greatness is found in the service of others. Now this is the very opposite of how our world thinks. Picture a Linkin profile. To get a job you have tell everyone what you have done and maybe you will embellish it a bit more to make yourself look good. But the Linkin profile of a child might read "Needs help with everything. Completely dependent upon their parents. Has no real status on their own."

Friends, remember we are God's children; his sons & daughters and we entered his kingdom because of his grace and grace alone. And so, we need to not just become like little children to be saved but to adopt the status of little children once we are saved. Not be big headed and throw our weight around for others to see but to seek greatness through service.

In the words of Rick Warren "as believers we are to take off the bib and put on the apron." Now I don't mind serving people at times, but I hate being treated as if I am a servant. As if I am a nobody. So how are we going to find the strength to serve and keep on serving even when others begin to take our service for granted?

Slide 11

Dr. Viktor Frankl was an Austrian physician who was imprisoned in one of Hitler's death camps. He and his fellow Jewish people suffered unbelievable atrocities. Everything about their living and working conditions were deplorable. Dr. Frankl offered what little medical help he could to the sick and dying. But over time, he discovered a unique phenomenon that he recorded in his book 'Man's Search for Meaning'.

He said those people who kept their strength & sanity the longest, were those who tried to help other prisoners and shared what little they had. Their physical & mental condition seemed strengthened by their friendliness, compassion & focus on something other than themselves. The conclusion was that serving others energizes, contrary to the great fear that resources will be depleted if we help others.

Slide 12

Do get that? Serving others makes you even more dependent upon Jesus. He will need to fill you. He will need to energise you. He will need to be with you. So, every day we need to come to him empty handed not just for our salvation but our daily needs. So, as we follow Jesus, the servant king, it humbles our hearts, make us secure enough to care for others &

Slide 13

3. And it encourages us to be **Serious about Sin. (Matthew 18:5-9)**

“5 And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. 6 “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.”

Because we know that the Kingdom of God is filled with people like you and me. Weak children. Dependent kids. Sons & daughters capable of stumbling. And so, here we see Jesus’ tone changes, for to cause a little one to stumble is a grave offense. So, who are the littles ones that Jesus is talking about? Well from the context it’s the people in God’s kingdom, isn’t it? Its those around us who are vulnerable. It’s our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

And he is saying our sins, our actions, our thoughtlessness, our misspoken words, our failures might cause someone else to stumble. Because sin is never isolated, sin always affects others. Sin is never private. Sin always spills. And yet sins affects can be eternal.

Slide 14

Which is why it would be worse for us to have a large stone hung around our necks and for us to be drowned in the deepest sea than to cause another child of God to stumble. It would be better for us to lose an eye or a hand than to cause either ourselves or others to end up in hell. That how seriously God takes the safety of his children. And that’s how seriously you and I should take our own personal holiness as well as the safety of God’s little ones.

Slide 15

7 “Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come! 8 If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. 9 And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.”

Slide 16

Think of guardrails on a mountain road. Someone has spent time and effort and lots and lots of money because the drop off the side of the road is deadly. And they don’t want anyone to go over the edge. Likewise, we need to put guardrails in place in our lives – radical, practical steps that warn us of the danger of sin. So that we won’t sin ourselves and we wont cause other people to sin either.

Slide 17

So, what are some things that we might do that could cause others to sin? We might continue to live a sinful lifestyle that says to others that obedience is optional. We might gossip freely, excuse greed, have an unforgiving heart, compromise ourselves sexually and that may say to others that holiness doesn’t really matter. Or maybe we could use our freedom in Christ to get what we want and lead others with a weaker conscience into sin.

We could abuse our power or influence over others to bully, manipulate, abuse the people around us for our own means. We can fail to protect vulnerable people or fail to discipline poor behaviour, or be harsh as we correct sin in others. Or we could reward appearance over honesty, strength over repentance and teach the people around us to hide sin rather than to fight it. But none of that is Christ like. For he was willing to bear the cost of others peoples sin himself and did everything he could to guard the flock that the Lord had given him.

And what are some things that you and I might be doing right now that if left unchecked might cause ourselves to stumble in our faith? Are you currently raising your hand in anger at another person? Are your feet taking you places that you should never go? Are your eyes watching programmes, internet, or images that will bring about a lust for things and people that are far from helpful? Then be single minded. Deal

with them ruthlessly. Get rid of these things straight away. You don't want to stumble and you don't want these things to cause someone else to stumble either.

Think of Jesus. At the start of his ministry, he spent 40 days in prayer, committing himself fully to his father's work and seeking his help to face the temptations of Satan that would come against him. Throughout his life he would get up early in order to pray and draw upon God's strength. And right at the end in the Garden of Gethsemane he pleaded with God, with tears like drops of blood, that he might do God's will rather than his own will.

Jesus knew that our salvation was dependent upon Him, and so he was willing to do anything, anything to ensure that Satan's temptations would not shipwreck the salvation that was going to be offered to the world through him. And if that was important to Jesus, it should be important to us as well. Just as stewards are people that not only serve others but do their best to care for those around them, so we need to take our stewardship of others seriously. Not just serve self interest but have humble hearts, be serious about sin and lastly

Slide 18

4. Look out for the lost (Matthew 18:10-14)

Because that is what God does, isn't it? *10 "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. It seems there are angels looking after each of God's little ones. And these angels have direct access to our God in heaven. That's how important these little ones are to our heavenly father. He is constantly caring for them. He is looking after them. Even when they are lost.*

Slide 19

12 "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? 13 And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. 14 In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish."

In Luke 15, the purpose of the parable of the lost sheep is clearly evangelistic. God is willing to do anything to save that lost coin, that lost sheep & that lost son. But here the purpose is clearly pastoral. He is talking about how we ourselves should care for those who have gone astray. We should chase after those who by their actions are wandering away from the fold.

Because Jesus the good shepherd left heaven to save this lost sheep. He does not merely risk inconvenience —He risks everything. He leaves the glory of heaven, enters the danger of a broken world, and lays down His life for the sheep. Thus, our shepherding needs to follow that sort of model. We go after the one who is lost because the Great Shepherd first came after us. And then we do anything, everything possible to care for the sheep Jesus is saved. Because the father's will is clear, he does not want any of his little ones to perish.

Slide 20

Just think for a moment of a lifesaver. No matter how many people are on the beach or safely in the surf, the lifesaver will leave the 99 who are safe in order to swim out and rescue the one swimmer who is in trouble. I think at times we forget that.

The church is not just for those who are in its walls each Sunday. It exists to bring the lost into the Kingdom and it is also there to care for the sheep that are not with us on any given Sunday. This is especially true, nowadays, as the amount of people who have been in Church all their lives but now are not going to any church is reaching epidemic numbers. All around us are hurt, harassed, broken sheep. Sometimes it was our actions that broke them. Sometimes it was other people. Sometimes they are going nowhere, sometimes they came back to us for help but are now drifting away again.

Thus, in God's kingdom, Jesus is calling us to be shepherds, who are always on the lookout for the lost. Who are measuring church health not only by those who are present but by those who are drifting. Who pay attention to those who used to worship among us but for one reason or another are not coming along as regularly as they once did. Who will pursue the wandering gently and persistently. Because every sheep is important to God. And because we want to be more like Jesus who came to seek and to save the lost.

Slide 22

So, in our passage today, "Jesus is not giving us four virtues to admire. He is showing us four ways *He Himself* lives as King."

- He is the **Son** who is so secure in his status that he can care for others.
- He is the **Servant** who became small—& calls us to follow him with humble hearts.
- He is the **Steward** who guards souls—and so will take sin seriously. And
- He is the **Shepherd** who is on the lookout for the lost—and sends us to do the same.

In other words, "**The King's community does not ask, 'What should we be like?' It asks, 'What is our King like—and how do we follow Him?'**"

I want you to think of a club you have been involved in, a footy club, a surf club, a P&C, Rotary, a service organisation. The best clubs are not held together by rules alone, but by people who are committed to its aims and purposes. It's the secure members who look out for the young ones, pull each other up, enforce safety for everyone's good and chase others when they don't turn up.

Slide 23

That is the kind of community Jesus is forming here on earth—but deeper and stronger. A community of **sons** secure in belonging, **servants** humble in heart, **stewards** careful with souls, and **shepherds** who go after the lost. This is the King's community. And it is shaped—always—by following the King Himself.

That's the sort of community we hope to build here. Are you secure enough in the faith to join us and care for others? Are you willing to humble enough yourself to serve others? Are you going to take your sin seriously so we don't push others away? And when others are struggling, are you willing to chase them and do whatever you can to bring them back into the fold. In other words, are you willing to let Jesus shape you and us, so that we can be an effective community of God's people who seek to minister Christ in God's world?

Song – Servants of the Gospel

[Servants Of The Gospel {with lyrics} - //Bryson Smith, Philip Percival - YouTube](#)

1: Though we were undeserving
Christ died to wash us clean
He bore the Father's anger
While nailed upon the tree
In darkness and in turmoil
The judgment fell on Him
Bringing us forgiveness
That new life might begin

Chorus: As servants of the gospel
Christ's work we carry on
That through our prayer and witness
By grace we might win some
We call on every nation
To turn to Christ the Lord

Refuge in His mercy
And marvel at His love
2: The grave could not contain Him
From death the Son broke free
Exalted by His Father
To rule eternally
And in His grace He calls us
To be His chosen church
As His holy temple
His priests to all the earth

3: Marked with His Holy Spirit
And guided by His word
Christ gathers us together
Prepares us for good works

And so with grace apportioned
We serve each others needs

Sharing in each blessing
And helping in our grief

Benediction. *“Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”* (Matthew 18:3-5)