Sunday Service ~ July 20, 2025 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 - Hallelujah to the King of Kings

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uGw7WB1cg8

 Maker of the heavens and earth Exalted by the roar of a multitude: "Salvation and glory and power Belong to our God". The cry of hallelujah resounds The fullness of time shows his victory Justice and truth are revealed His wisdom adored.

Chorus: Hallelujah to the King of Kings Hallelujah the Almighty reigns Let us all rejoice and give him all our praise, our praise. 2. Praise the Lord you servants of God
All who fear him come, whether small or great
Fall before his throne in awe
And worship him
Blessed are those who will feast
At the glorious banquet of God himself;
The wedding of the Lamb has come
His bride is now here

Bible Reading – Isaiah 40:9-31 (NIV)

"You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"10 See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. 11 He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. 12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? 13 Who can fathom the Spirit of the Lord, or instruct the Lord as his counsellor? 14 Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge, or showed him the path of understanding? 15 Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on

the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust. 16 Lebanon is not sufficient for altar fires, nor its animals enough for burnt offerings. 17 Before him all the nations are as nothing; they are regarded by him as worthless and less than nothing.18 With whom, then, will you compare God? To what image will you liken him? 19 As for an idol, a metalworker casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and fashions silver chains for it. 20 A person too poor to present such an offering selects wood that will not rot; they look for a skilled worker to set up an idol that will not topple.21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? 22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. 23 He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. 24 No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff. 25 "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. 27 Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God" 28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, & his understanding no one can fathom. 29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run & not grow weary, they will walk & not be faint.

Announcements

Focus for Month: Hospitality. "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:2) this verse tells us that hospitality is both a blessing to others and ourselves. For as we reach out to others who are strangers, we actually find that people that God has sent (for that is what the word angel means – God's sent ones) come into our very own home. That matches what the bible says elsewhere that as we give to others, we receive back, even more than what we give out!

NSW Public School Holidays. All regular activities of the Church will be back in full swing starting tomorrow. Why not join a home group, there are weekly and fortnightly groups, men, women's and mixed groups, online and in person groups, day and night groups. See Stephen for further details.

Kids Church on Break During School Holidays This is the last week that Kids Church will be taking a break during the school holidays. This also includes Sprouts (creche). Regular programs will resume on the first Sunday of term 27/7 when we will go back to the old way of doing things where families come to church together and the kids will go to Kids Church after a Kids Song or Talk and be accompanied by their leaders up to the Cottage/Office. These leaders will bring them back to us in time for the close of our Church services. If you want more details, please speak to either Marissa or Charlotte.

New City Catechism: Question 30. What is faith in Jesus Christ? Faith in Jesus Christ is acknowledging the truth of everything that God has revealed in his Word, trusting in him, and also receiving and resting on him alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the gospel. **Bible Passage: Galatians 2:20.** "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

NSW General assembly. Many thanks to those who prayed for Stephen and Ross at the Churches annual meeting in Sydney this last week. Hopefully they will report back to us some of what has happened. **Sermon Series for Term 3 (AM Services only).** Stephen starts a new sermon series in the morning, entitled, "God is...,"

27.7	God is trinity	John 14:15-31
3.8	God is holy	Isaiah 6:1-7
10.8	God is good	Psalm 145:8-21
17.8	God is love	1 John 4:7-12

Annual Leave. Audric and Elise and the family will go on two weeks leave starting tomorrow. If you require any pastoral assistance during that time, please speak to Stephen.

Prayer. Do you know there is a prayer group that meets at the Public school at 9am each week to pray for the work of the entire Church? Please join them if you would like to. And we also have a Prayer Chain (more a prayer email nowadays) where those who wish for prayer can contact Kerrie Pittman on 0414 171 642 & she will distribute your prayer points to a list of pray-ers (if you would like to be added to that list just contact Kerrie!)

Pastoral Prayer

Pray for Nicaragua (Population 7.1 million, Christians 6.7 million). Christians have been among those to raise their voice against the authorative leadership, but it's coming at an alarming cost. Churches and their leaders are labelled terrorists and coup-plotters. Pray for God's protection over church leaders courageously speaking out against injustice. Pray that persecution preparedness training and discipleship seminars help believers live as salt and light. Pray that believers monitored by the government won't be deterred from sharing the gospel.

Pray for the Applebys. (Karen Logan to provide)

Pray for a great grasp of the Lord. Pray that this term we might grow in our understanding who God is and how great is works for this world have been. Pray that we might truly come to grips with the fact that there is no-one like our God and that he is good, holy, loving and worthy to be praised.

Pray for police and first responders. Sovereign God, we thank You for those who serve as police and first responders, bearing the sword to uphold justice and protect life. Grant them wisdom, courage, and integrity as they fulfill their duties, and guard them from harm and temptation. May they know Your grace in Christ and be instruments of Your common good in our society.

Song – How deep the Father's Love for us

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzQj7XvKFmA

- 1. How deep the Father's love for us
 How vast beyond all measure
 That He should give His only Son
 To make a wretch His treasure
 How great the pain of searing loss
 The Father turns His face away
 As wounds which mar the Chosen One
 Bring many sons to glory
- Behold the man upon a cross
 My sin upon His shoulders
 Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
 Call out among the scoffers
 It was my sin that held Him there

- Until it was accomplishedHis dying breath has brought me lifeI know that it is finished
- 4. I will not boast in anything
 No gifts, no power, no wisdom
 But I will boast in Jesus Christ
 His death and resurrection
 Why should I gain from His reward?
 I cannot give an answer
 But this I know with all my heart
 His wounds have paid my ransom

Bible Reading - Romans 11:33-36 (NIV)

33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! 34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsellor?" 35 "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" 36 For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen."

Sermon – God is ... Incomparable! (Stephen T)

A few years ago, there was an ad put out by Industry Super Funds encouraging us to compare the pair. In it they were saying that not all super funds are the same and so it was important that you worked out which super fund was right for you. And to do that you need to compare and contrast one fund with another.

Now that makes good sense and it is something we do all the time. We compare the market when it comes to insurance. We compare the prices when we want to shop online. We compare the options when we think about what we want to watch at night and we compare the alternatives when we have some spare time and we are thinking about what we are going to do. It does make sense to compare the pair.

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But today I want us to compare the gods. Think about what is God's biggest rival today for you and then compare that option with making the Lord your God. What's God's biggest rival? Family for example, are you tempted to put the needs of family about the need to worship God on a Sunday? Money? Are you looking for security in your bank balance or in the Lord? Health? Does sickness or death frighten you or do you fear the Lord? Or is it technology, love, acceptance, comfort, success that is the uppermost in your mind?

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Well Isaiah will say to us that God is incomparable, there is nothing even remotely close to the power, the might, the wisdom and the love of God. And so, as we start a new sermon series on who God is, I hope that our God will fill our vision. That the Lord will move to the centre of our affections. That Jesus will be Lord for each one of us. And if we can do that, then all the other so-called gods can have their place in our lives but not in the number #1 spot, which they were not designed to occupy but instead in a supporting role so that you and I end up serving God as we go about our family, work, home and love life. For friends

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1. Compare (Verses 18-24)

18 "With whom, then, will you compare God? To what image will you liken him? 19 As for an idol, a metalworker casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and fashions silver chains for it. 20 A person too poor to present such an offering selects wood that will not rot; they look for a skilled worker to set up an idol that will not topple."

For the people of Isaiah's time, there were two main rivals for Israels' affection & they were the idols that the nations around them worshipped and the might and power of the super powers of the day, like Babylon, who seemed to control the people of God's destiny. So, they knew all about their God, who made the heavens & had chosen them out of all the nations of the world to be his own. But they were currently in exile, far away from their land, under the control of others. So maybe the Lord wasn't as strong as the alternatives around them?

Now we don't have idols today, do we? We are not tempted to bow down to made up gods, are we? (Just wait a second, consider this video. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPsTw95FVkY)

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(Friends,) We may have different idols, but we still have idols today. How many of us are controlled by our screen time? How many hours do you average each day? How many of us are consumed by fashion, dictated to by work, filled with a love of money? Have you ever put family over the Lord's work? Or sport over Church? Or leisure over prayer? If so, we should hear what the Lord is saying to his people through the prophet Isaiah.

Idols are silly says the Lord because you are worshipping created things, rather than the creator of all things. So, when the people of Isaiah's time wanted to build an idol, they would hire a craftsman to do the work. And if they had lots of money, that idol was coated in gold or silver but if they were poor, it might just have been carved out of wood. But the idea was it was something to look up to and bow down to. So,

it was important that it didn't topple over by itself, because then it was something you were looking down on and picking up!

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But why look at finite idol, when at the same time there is an infinite God? 21 "Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you **from the beginning**? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? 22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in."

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Compare the pair? The idol is man-made; God is the one who made everything in the beginning. Idols are small, God controls all things in heaven and earth. Idols rely on others; God can't even fit his entire being in the whole universe that he has made. But before we have a go at the ancients and point out how silly they are, let's be reminded there are three fingers pointing back to us & our idols. Mobile phones run out of charge & become obsolete, people let us down, money rusts, dreams fade, careers fail to satisfy, our sporting teams lose

So don't rely on the created things. Turn to the creator of all things. Don't think that the things of this world will satisfy, turn to the one who made the world and who made us. He alone will satisfy. God is way too complex to be boiled down to a picture or a sculpture. Nothing on earth or in the heavens is more than a matchbox car trying to impersonate a supercar. Compare the pair and come back to the Lord, for he is greater than the idols and he is also more powerful than the powers of our day. For

Slide 8

23 "He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. 24 No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff."

Earthly rulers, kings and governments are like a small seedling that gets blown away by the wind. Like a piece of litter dropped to the ground that is soon picked up and carried away by the elements. Princes, presidents and prime ministers come and go, they are here for a few years and then the whirlwind of life or public opinion sweeps them away like chaff. Only God is eternal. He was there in the beginning and he will be there at the very end.

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Friends, isn't this something we need to do? Compare the pair! The power of the eternal God with mortal men. Not look to created things but to the creator of all things. For nothing compares to God's glory & no-one compares to his power. Because the Lord is

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2. Creator/Cosmic/Counseller/Carrier (verses 25-26, 9-17)

25 "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who **created** all these? He who **brings out the starry host** one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing."

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Look at the **cosmos**. Open your eyes to the heavens. How many stars are there? Astronomers estimate that are 200 billion trillion stars. That's a two with 24 naughts following it! Mankind for all its time on earth is still just guessing how many stars there are, let alone mapping them all out. But the Lord of the cosmos keeps a record of them. And He calls them all by name. Wow, mankind is not even on the same playing field as the Lord!

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For this God is the **creator** of all things. 12 "Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?"

The picture here is of God as a master craftsman at his work bench. He looks down at the massive Pacific Ocean and it fits within the hollow of his hand. He turns his attention to the heavens; they fit between his pinky and his thumb. He picks up a bucket of dust effortlessly, that's all the dust of the earth there under his control. And he picks up the Himalayas, the Rockies, the Alps and the Urals and weighs them on his kitchen scales.

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He's got the whole wide world in his hands. Which means he has Babylon, the place that God's people were currently in exile in, it is in his hands. He got you and me and brother, you & me and sister, in fact he has everybody here, in his hands. This craftsman is the creator of the entire cosmos. No one can do what the Lord can do & no one thinks like the Lord thinks.

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13 "Who can fathom the Spirit of the Lord, or instruct the Lord as his counsellor? 14 Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge, or showed him the path of understanding?"

Gods' knowledge and wisdom is limitless. God doesn't need a counsellor for not only is he the architect of the world but he is the ultimate origin of all wisdom, knowledge and justice. Every day, every week, every year, the smartest minds that we have, are discovering more and more things about this world. And they are scaling the Everest's of knowledge that God has placed all around us. But unfortunately, many are doing it without reference to God.

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The Lord is the source of all knowledge. He is not figuring things out. He is never behind the curve. He never has to play catchup. He knows the end from the beginning. As Paul puts it in the book of Romans 11, "Oh the depths of the riches and the wisdom and knowledge of God. How unsearchable his judgments and how inscrutable his ways. For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counsellor? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever, amen."

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That is why Isaiah shouts out in verse 9, "Here is your God!" 10 See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm." But if that isn't amazing enough, the same God who rules and knows and judges also cares and carries. 11 "He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young."

The mighty Lord who has the whole world in his hand, also carries his little ones in his hand. He holds his people close to his heart. He is not just mighty but gentle. Not just all powerful & all-knowing but all loving. Not just the one who winds up the clock & lets it tick down but the one that joins us in creation. The good shepherd who will lay down his life for his sheep.

God's greatness doesn't exclude his care; it actually guarantees his care! How amazing is that? No other religion can compare to that! I remember reading a long time ago about Philip Yancey walking around various places of worship. The Hindu temple had a big statue of Buddha, distant but wise. The Muslim Mosque had a high ceiling and lofty architecture, showing a great and awesome God. But the Christian church had a simple cross, because our God came near and died to forgive our sins and to carry our burdens.

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Compare the pair? Which God is the one that suits your needs the best? Compare the pair, don't bow down to an image of a bull or a sun, bow down to the one with real strength, the one who truly gives life and light to the world. Compare the pair, do you want to put your trust in a government that will come and go, a military presence that seemed strong yesterday but is quite weak today? No, Isaiah is saying to us all today, worship the Lord.

How different our God is to all his other rivals. He is all powerful, all knowing and all loving. Which means he is worthy of more worship than we can ever give him. 16" Lebanon is not sufficient for altar fires, nor its animals enough for burnt offerings." There is no amount of praise or works or gifts that could ever be enough. The Lord is completely incomparable!

Slide 18

Now doesn't that give us a sense of comfort, of strength? Our God is majestic, all powerful, all knowing, all good. He made the heavens. He knows the dimensions of the earth. And yet he cares. Surely then he will not forget about us his people! Surely, he can help us to cope with the dark nights of the soul we may be currently struggling with. Surely anything that happens in this world, doesn't catch him by surprise, somehow it is all part of his plan and purpose for our lives. Well yes, but that doesn't mean we won't also complain.

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3. Complain (Verse 27)

27 "Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, my cause is disregarded by my God" You see in the context of Isaiah 40, yes, the prophet can tell God's people how great God really is but the people just look around them. Why then were we defeated in battle by Babylonian gods? Why are we in exile away from the God's land & temple? It looks like God is able to save us, no question about that. But is he willing to save us? He has the power to do so, but why hasn't he answered my prayers for rescue?

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I read something similar recently from the satirical website, the Damascus Dropbear. "In an extraordinary discovery, a man from Hobart has determined that his prayers posted on Facebook are more likely to be effective. According to reports, Matthew Markson, a devout Christian on most days, had been praying to the Almighty regarding a number of practical issues but receiving, what he considered to be, an inadequate response. That is until one day, out of desperation, he had the revolutionary idea to try posting his private prayers on Facebook. To his amazement, he found that God was suddenly answering his prayers at an alarming rate. "It was incredible," said Markson. "A prayer posted to God about how I was a bit sad after my football team lost, and out of nowhere all these people started reaching out and asking if I was okay. The next day I prayed about needing a good recipe for chicken noodle soup, and again the Lord came through with about five different options. It's like a miracle. I feel so close to the Lord now that I know I can trust him with all my needs."…

It's easy for us to complain to God, isn't it? Why aren't you answering my prayers? Why haven't you changed my situation? Why haven't your healed me of my illness? Why didn't you make that relationship work for me? Lord, you have the power. You seem to help everyone else. But maybe you just don't want to help me. Well, in response to the people complaining, God doesn't just wipe them off the map, instead the Lord

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4. Comes Down (verses 28-31)

28 "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. 29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint."

In our society it is the young people that don't seem to need to sleep. It is those who pump iron that seem to have such strength. But that is not the real truth. It is those who turn to the Lord who have access to the warehouses of his resources. For it is the Lord who gives strength to soar, stamina to run and perseverance to keep on walking. This power, this strength, this energy, that is God's alone, is available to us today.

Now I would suggest that we would all like to mount up with wings like eagles, but as someone has said, "It's hard to soar with the eagles when you are surrounded by turkeys." Actually, that is just a cop out. No matter what is around you, no matter who is with you, God can renew our hope. Those whose hope is in the Lord, those who are willing to lift their eyes and look to Him, those who wait upon our God will be able to soar on wings like eagles. They will be given the strength to endure any situation. They will receive the comfort they need to cope with anything, anything this world throws at us!

Because God is not just a distant God, he is a God who has come down to us. For when we take a passage like Isaiah 40 and bring it to the New Testament, we see that the gospel of Jesus Christ transposes it into a newer and higher key.

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For Jesus came from heaven and put aside all the privileges of the godhead and took on flesh and dwelt among us. He experienced our weaknesses. He got hungry. And tired. He wept. He was exhausted. He bled. He died. Jesus understands our weakness & understands our doubts and complaints and Paul says to us that if we are united with Christ, he can turn our weaknesses into his strength. That his grace is sufficient for me. That we can actually boast in our weaknesses, for that's when Christ's power really rests on us.

Do you get it? The power of God, the wisdom of God, the glory of God is found in Jesus. He is the good shepherd this passage is talking about. He is the one who leads his sheep. He is the one who sustains his sheep. And he is even the one who dies for his sheep.

The power of God is found in the cross because there Jesus defeats sin, death and the devil. All his rivals are vanquished. And the wisdom of God is also found in the cross because God found a way where the price for sin could be paid, so perfect justice; and yet the sinner could be offered forgiveness of sins, perfect mercy. And yet once we receive that forgiveness, God tells us our lives need to change but he also gives us the power we need to make those changes.

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Ludwig Nommensen, a pioneer missionary to the Batak people of Indonesia, spent two years living with them and studying their traditions. At the end of that time, the chief asked him if the Christian faith differed from Batak traditions. The chief said, "We, too, have laws that say we must not steal, nor take our neighbour's wife, nor bear false witness."

The missionary answered, "But my Master gives the power to keep His laws." The chief was startled. "Can you teach my people that?" Nommensen said, "God can give them that power if they ask for it and listen to His word." So, for six months Nommensen taught the Batak about the power of God. At the end of that time the chief said, "Stay, your law is better than ours. Ours tells us what we ought to do. Your God says, 'Come, I will walk with you and give you strength to do the good thing.'"

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Friends, in Isaiah 40, the people of God are told to look past the horizontal plane of being under the yoke of the Babylonians and look to the vertical plane that the Lord is sovereign. That the Lord is incomparable. And we today need to look past our horizontal plane, look past the violence and troubles and the sickness, the wars and death and look up at our Lord. Our mighty God. Our creator God. Our Saviour God. Our incomparable God who comes down to us in the person of Christ and who carries us to himself.

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Someone has said, "Never perhaps has there been another prophet like Isaiah, who stood with his head in the clouds and his feet on solid earth, with his heart in things of eternity and with his mouth and hand in the things of time, with his spirit in the eternal counsel of God and his body in a very definite moment of history."

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Do you think that you and I can join Isaiah with our head in the clouds and our feet here on earth? Can we

lift our eyes and see how great our God really is. How he is incomparable, stronger, wiser, more powerful and tender than any other option around us. Can we come to Christ today and worship him, trust him and follow him? Because nothing we do will ever be enough. But anywhere else we turn will never satisfy either. So let us worship and live for our incomparable God. For it is our Lord who is truly the one and only.

Song – Praise 96 Psalm 96 Praise - YouTube

- 1. Sing unto the Lord a new song Sing unto the Lord all the earth Sing to the Lord, bless his name Tell of his salvation day by day.
- 2. Majesty and honour are his Strength and beauty, glory and righteousness Great is the Lord, and deserving of praise He is to be feared above all gods.

3. Let all the creation be glad
The earth and the sea sing for joy
Before the Lord, the judge of the earth
Who judges us in righteousness and truth.

Chorus

Worship the Lord in holy array Tremble before him all the earth Our God reigns.

Benediction "33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! 34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsellor?" 35 "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" 36 For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen." (Romans 11:33-36)