

Sunday 30th August, 2026

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church Welcome & Prayer

"If the Lord had not been on our side— let Israel say— 2 if the Lord had not been on our side when people attacked us, 3 they would have swallowed us alive when their anger flared against us; 4 the flood would have engulfed us the torrent would have swept over us, 5 the raging waters would have swept us away. 6 Praise be to the LORD, who has not let us be torn by their teeth. 7 We have escaped like a bird from the fowler's snare; the snare has been broken, and we have escaped. 8 Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth."

Let us pray. Dear Lord and Father of mankind thank you that we can come to you for help in our time of need. We come this morning to praise you for your power and for your passion, your sovereignty and your sincerity, your faithfulness and your fellowship, your control and your care. Where else can we go to for help? Who else is able to save us from our sin? From ourselves? From our world? From all that is around us? But you. You alone are worthy of our worship. You alone are the one we want to live for. You alone are the one whom we can trust. So, we turn away from all other distractions and come to you. We place our sins before you and ask for forgiveness. We offer ourselves to you as living sacrifices, wholly & pleasing to you and you alone. May this be our spiritual act of worship this day & may you again become our God, our father and our friend. Amen.

Song – How great is our God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBD18rsVJHk>

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 – Luke 15:1-10 (NIV)

"Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.' 3 Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 'Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in

heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. 8 "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins[a] and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' 10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Announcements

Welcome to everyone to our services today. A special welcome to those who are with us for the first time. We hope you enjoy our time together and that the message of God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ is clearly seen in all we do and say today.

Our Church is a community of around 300-400 people meeting each week in three services

- Swansea 8am – a more traditional service with good Bible teaching & warm fellowship
- Charlestown 9:45am – catering to young and old with a more contemporary feel
- Sunday @ 6 – aimed at young adults (with a few others who are young at heart) with modern songs and an emphasis on Christian discipleship. **Invitation Service.** We only have one week before our invitation services at all three times next Sunday. Who can you invite to come along?

We run the following activities for all those who are interested

- **Bible Studies.** Where we have a chance to discuss a Bible passage is a small group. We have men and women's and mixed groups, that meet weekly or fortnightly at the Church or in homes, live on ZOOM. There should be a group that would work for you.
- **Creche.** During the Charlestown AM service a chance for our youngest to enjoy their time together in a safe environment
- **Playgroup (SPARKLERS).** Games, stories, singing & fun in a Christian environment.
- **Kids Church.** During the Charlestown AM service, the Bible's message for the young
- **Youth group (IMPACT).** A high impact programme of games, fun & Christian teaching
- **Young Adults Activities.** Plenty of teaching, training, socials, camps & so much more.
- **Pastoral Care.** Making sure no one falls through the cracks
- **Women's Ministries.** Social's, training, walking groups, soccer and more.
- **Men's Ministries.** Breakfasts, walking group, soccer and socials.
- **Plus extra Activities** like Camps, training events, social activities and more

Position Vacant. We are looking for a replacement to Sam Wilson to become our Admin Assistant. 10 hours a week. Flexible timing of hours. Pay rate linked to Clerk level 4 salary. Responsible to Stephen Taylor. Applications of interest close on 5th September. For more details, see Stephen or Audric

Next preaching programme – Swansea/Charlestown AM. Psalms: Life in the Presence of God *A journey through three Psalms about God's glory, God's house, and God's people.*

6/9	Psalm 29	God's glory revealed
13/9	Psalm 84	Where are blessings found?
20/9	Psalm 133	The beauty of unity

Don't forget. The finals of the men's and women's soccer comp is on next Sunday. See Sam T or Cheryl G for more details.

RECHARGE. Recharge Men's Conference | Saturday 12th September 7:30am-1:00pm Theme – Futureproof Men: Living now with the end in mind. Speaker – Steve McAlpine. Rego \$50 & under-25 \$20. For details see Greg W or visit <https://www.hgm.org.au/recharge>

Women's Conference | Saturday 19th September (if room) 9:00am - 1:00pm Presbyterian Women are holding a conference at Epping Presbyterian on Meeting Jesus. More info <https://ttw.pcnswwomen.org.au> Our church will also play the recorded talks Saturday 17th October 9:00-1:00pm. See our Women's Ministry Committee members for more details.

Lords Supper. Will be celebrated next Sunday at each of our three services.

Song – His glory and our good <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5nUTO4m9oA>

1. *I have seen my Father's glory
Revealed in Jesus Christ
And the more that I behold Him
The more He satisfies
When I gaze upon His beauty
When I see Him as I should
Then my eyes are lifted upward
For His glory and my good*

2. *There is hope in every trial
For I can trust the Lord
He will turn my heart towards Him
And help me bear the thorn
So in faith, I follow Jesus
On the road not understood
For I know that He is working
For His glory and my good*

Chorus

*To our God be the glory, to our God be praise
He alone, the name above all names
I will boast ever only in the Lord, my God
For I know His glory is my good*

3. *See the open arms of Jesus
Upon the cross that day
What they understood as weakness
Deserves my every praise
For the charge that was against me
It was nailed into the wood
Yes, I know that He has saved me
For His glory and my good*

Chorus

4. *Would I gladly be made nothing
That Christ would be made more?
Would I seek the only kingdom
That far outweighs them all?
I will stand before my Father
Where the faithful saints have stood
And with joy, my heart shall praise Him
For His glory and my good
And with joy, my heart shall praise Him
For His glory and my good*

Chorus x2

Pastoral Prayer Points

Pray for Australia (Population 27 million. Christians 11 million). Pray for a fresh move of God to awaken local churches, deepen faith, and draw many people back to biblical truth. Pray for political leaders, lawmakers, and community figures to govern with integrity, justice, equity, and compassion. Pray for strength within families, healing for communities facing social challenges, and greater care for the vulnerable and lonely.

Pray for SPARK. Thank the Lord that around 40 of our young people are spending the weekend with hundreds of other young Christians at the SPARK conference. Pray that they might grow in faith and love as they learn more from God's word.

Pray for Parsons (CMS – Japan). Pray that Steven and Sandara might continue to help proclaim the good news to the Japanese people – a difficult people group to reach. Pray for Steven as he leads and mentors 82 different missionary families as they seek to share the love of Christ to the Japanese people. Pray for Sandra as she helps out with practical support for new missionaries helping them to find schools for their kids, shop for essentials and become acclimatized to a new environment.

Pray for the protection of women and children across Australia from violence, and provide safety, and support for those living in fear. Give wisdom and courage to governments, police, courts, community organisations and churches as they work to prevent violence, hold perpetrators accountable and strengthen the support available to those harmed. Transform our culture by teaching us to honour every woman as someone made in your image, and raise up men and women who reject violence, and pursue relationships marked by love, faithfulness and respect

Bible Reading – Luke 15:11-32

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So, he divided his property between them. 13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So, they began to celebrate. 25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' 28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So, his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Sermon: Come Home (Stephen T)

When I travel, one of the things I always look forward to is coming home. Don't get me wrong—I love travelling. I enjoy seeing new places, trying different food, meeting new people. Often, I'm away on holidays and I wish that I could have another week. But the longer the holiday goes, the more I begin to look forward to coming home.

Is it the comfortable bed that fits my shape? Is it catching up again with the family that loves me? Is it the familiar surroundings, the familiar routines, the familiar smells? Even making a cup of plunger coffee in my own kitchen somehow tastes better than anywhere else. So why do I so look forward to coming home? I think it is because home is where we belong. It's the place where we are loved & accepted, where we are truly known. Which is why there's something inside every human being that truly longs for home.

Slide 2

But here's my question. What if the home you live in isn't your real home? What if every home you've ever lived in is only a shadow of the home you were actually made for? What if that deep ache you sometimes feel, even when life is going well, is because you would made for somewhere else?

Well, the Bible tells us exactly that. God created us to live with Him. He made humanity to enjoy His presence, His love, His family forever. But we've wandered away. And the whole story of the Bible is the story of humanity leaving home. And the story of Jesus is God's desire to bring His children back home again.

Slide 3

And the parable of the prodigal son is about that journey home. And it highlights two sons, one who walks away from his home and has to find his way back. And the other, who seems like he was close to home all of his life but his heart was still far away. And it points to the fact that home is not where your heart is, instead home is where your father God is. And our wonderful heavenly father will do anything, anything, to bring his children back home. In fact, he has moved heaven & earth to call you and me to come home. Let's see what I mean.

Slide 4

1. The younger son – far from home (verses 11-24)

"There was a man who had two sons.¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So, he divided his property between them.

Now let's stop there for a moment because that is a shocking way to start a story. The younger one wants his father to give him what will be owed to him when his dad dies. What a terrible thing to ask. Can you imagine a son or daughter going up to their mum, their dad and saying to them, "look you owe me big time. Give me now, what you would give me if you were to die today." It's a terrible thing to say.

A good friend of mine, had his daughter leave home under strained circumstances. They haven't had any direct contact with her for years. And it's a terrible tragedy when there is this sort of trouble on the home front. And I can well imagine that the father of the prodigal son saying, *"Yes, I will give you what you deserve, a clip around the ear! Get out of here! How dare you want my things without wanting me? How dare you want my money and don't want my love & my presence."*

I think the father would be well in his rights to do just that. But the father in this parable doesn't do that. He gives his son what he wants. He divided his property between them & in those days that meant the oldest got a double portion of the inheritance so he got 2/3 of the property & the younger one got 1/3. But to do that means the father loses everything.

Not only does he lose the 1/3 that goes to the younger brother. But everything that is left now is the property of the older brother. The father now effectively owns nothing. And in that culture if you lost your land, you lost your status and for a person who has always lived on the land, you would also lose your identity. My father-in-law has lived on the one property all of his life and he says if he was to lose his land, you might as well take him out in a box. His land is his life.

And the younger son has asked his father to tear his life apart, to tear his identity apart, to tear himself apart. And the father is willing to do that for his son. It's absolutely amazing.

Slide 5

Meanwhile the younger son takes the money and lives and plays hard. He has a pocket full of cash and a head full of dreams and he wants to make the most of both. He spends his money on wine, women and song. Until there is nothing left. And he finds that all the people who used to hang around him who liked him for what he possessed, now don't like him because he doesn't possess anything anymore. He finds out that by taking the money and spending it on himself, he surrounded himself with takers not givers. He is treated in a similar way, to the way that he has treated his father.

The younger son finds out that sin looks attractive but, in the end, it fails to satisfy. Leaving his father's home promised freedom but what it actually gave him was slavery.

Slide 6

So, what does he do next? *"He went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything"*. He took a job that was a real no, no, for him. Jews didn't have anything to do with pigs,

they were unclean. God's OT laws told them that. But here is he handling pigs every day, even eating pig food & if you know anything about pigs, they will eat anything. So, eating this food is the lowest of the low.

Slide 7

But he comes up with a plan. *"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out & go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.'"*

He will go home. For home is not just a place, it is a relationship. And he needs both a place and a relationship right now. He needs his father's fellowship and he needs his father's forgiveness. But he doesn't want to go home as a son, nor as a slave but as a hired hand. Now it is important to understand the difference here. A son is an heir; he has a special relationship with the father but the younger son has destroyed that relationship. There is no chance of being a son again. A slave lives on the property & works the property but notice he doesn't ask his dad to make him a slave. He wants to be a hired servant.

Someone who lives in town, who works for the father and is paid a wage. The younger son wants to pay his father back. He wants to make up for what he has done. He wants to be given a chance to fix it all up. He wants to earn the right to come back to the family.

Now if I were the father, that's exactly what I would want him to do. To prove himself worthy. To pay back what he owed me. I can imagine crossing my arms and saying I am so hurt. I am so disappointed in you that I can no longer trust you. I might forgive you in the future but you will have to prove yourself. And that is going to take a very long, long time.

Slide 8

But the father in the story is not like me. *"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him"*. Fathers in those days didn't run. Kids ran. Youths ran, sometimes women ran but not fathers. But this father does run. But he does more than that. He restores the younger son. He puts the family ring on his finger, which today might mean giving him a credit card that he can access the family funds. He gives him his own sandals for his feet. He throws a party. He celebrates. He doesn't give him what he deserves, **he gives him grace.**

Slide 9

What a picture of grace it is showing us. The prodigal son has done absolutely nothing to deserve what he gets from the father. And yet he gets it anyway. The younger son left home hoping to find clothes, jewelry, friends, love & joy; & he got none of it. Only the pleasures of sin but now he gets it all of it and more when he comes back home from the hand of his father.

And it shows us a picture of what repentance looks like as well. It is not just regret or remorse. Instead, it is admitting our wayward lifestyle. It is asking for forgiveness from our heavenly father. It is coming home with nothing at all that you can bring to the table. It is being dead but wanting to be alive. Lost but needing to be found. And getting a full measure of God's grace when we in repentance turn to the father and come back home.

I wonder if we need to hear that good news today? Many of us have wanted the father's things rather than wanting the father and so we have wandered away from God looking for fun, pleasure or success, sex and satisfaction. Only to realise that these things never ever fill the God shaped hole that we all have in our hearts. But if we were to come home, come back to God and repent of our past lifestyle, we would find there a gracious God, who is not wanting to give you what you deserve but instead offer up to you & me his amazing grace.

Great story, eh? And it should be the end of the parable, except there was not just one lost son but two. Yes, the younger son was lost while far away from home but there is also a

Slide 10

2. An older son who is lost while very close to home as well (verses 25-32)

"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'" The older brother became angry and refused to go in."

There is a new conflict arising in the story. It was obvious that the younger son had a problem with the father. He's gone and made a complete and utter hash of his life. But the older son has also got a problem with the father. He looked like the model son. He has stayed at home, worked hard, been loyal but he has the same problem as his brother. He now doesn't want to be a part of the family. He doesn't want to come in & join the party.

Slide 11

²⁹ "But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!"

Notice what he is saying. He doesn't talk about his brother. He doesn't call him a son. He says this son of yours. He is now divorcing himself from the family. But it's more than this. He too wants the father's things rather than wanting the father's heart. In this midst of this great day, this great celebration, the return of the prodigal son, he will not join him. Because the father has killed the fattened calf for his brother. But that is now his property. That is now his inheritance. The older son may not have travelled to a far country but his heart has been living in that far country. His heart is still far away from the father and his home.

Slide 12

Now I have a lot of sympathy for the older son, because he has many of the qualities that I have always valued. Hard work, loyalty, obedience, diligence. It seems to me that he is a good, solid citizen and compared to his younger brother, almost a saint. But his problem is the same as my biggest problem. I may not seem like I am a big sinner but I am far too self-absorbed. Often self-righteous and always, always, self-justifying.

If you think about the two greatest commands in the Bible. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength. Like the older brother, I love myself more than I love God. I do things that will make me happy, make my life more comfortable, more than making god happy & the next commandment is to love your neighbour as your love yourself and I certainly don't do that either. Like the older brother I want the younger brothers of this world to get their just deserts. I am slow to forgive when others have hurt me. I often fail to show care & compassion for those that have wandered too far from home.

You see the older brother can't see the joy of having the younger son return, like the father can. He can't see the need for forgiveness, like the father can. He doesn't want to show him any grace, like the father does. Despite living with the father all these years, he is nothing like his father. He too wants the father's things but he doesn't want to be like the father. For some people rebel in open defiance, while others rebel in a much more secret way.

Some people leave home because of their self-desires and others stay away because of their self-absorption. Some people keep their distance from the father because of the bad things they have done & others stay away because they are proud of all the good things they have done. Both have to realise they are not saved by what they do but by their father's grace.

For that's what the father gives his elder son as well. Grace. Again, he comes out to his son. Again, he takes the initiative. You see the father loves both of his sons equally and he wants both of his sons at this celebration. *"My son," the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."*

So, will the older son come into the feast? Will he share in his father's joy, his father's happiness? We are not told. The story ends leaving us wondering. Actually, it's more than that. We need to realise that it is told in such a way as to teach us, to teach you and me, that it is not just the younger son that is lost, it is now obvious that the older son is also lost.

Why isn't he coming into the feast? He tells us in verse 29. *'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders.'* What is stopping him? His obedience! His righteousness. The younger son goes away from the father through disobedience, the older son through obedience. The younger son wants to get control of the father's things by doing his own thing and the older son wants to get control of the father's things by doing the right thing. Both are alienated from the father, both are lost, both wants the gifts not the giver!

Friends we can be lost because of our goodness or because of our badness. We can be far away from our heavenly father's heart by rebelling or by staying. Because the key thing is not what we do but the relationship we have with the father. Now, maybe you have lived a good life, a respectable life, a successful life. You have gone to Church, you have worked hard, you have been a good spouse, a good parent and you think that is good enough for God. Well, it's not. You must want the father, not just the father's things. You must desire a relationship with the father not just aim to live a good life.

Sometimes what we really want is blessing, is eternal life, not a relationship with God. And so, we use religion, we will use church, we will use morality to try and earn what we want. Jesus then can be our guide, our model, our friend but he is not our Saviour. We are our own Saviour. And if that is you, you are still lost. Because it is not about getting the father's things that are important, it is getting the father Himself. And that is a gift of grace. Given to us from God. Offered to us whether we seem far away from God or near to God.

3. So, lets lastly turn to the father – who represents our real home

You see this parable is one of three parables in Luke 15. And each show God's care for the lost. In the parable of the lost sheep. He has 100 sheep. One is lost and the other 99 are safe. Most of the sheep are safe but one has wandered away either on purpose or by mistake. And the shepherd, God, seeks out the lost sheep. He will go to any lengths to find the one who has gone astray. For God truly has a heart for those who have wandered astray.

But in the parable of the lost coins, the woman has 10 coins. One lost and the other 9 are safe. And the coin once it has become lost can't do anything about it. It can't move. It can't find its way back to safety. It is totally dependent upon the woman. So, the woman mirrors God and turns the house upside down until she finds the lost coin. The woman shows great joy, even throwing a party when the lost coin has been found.

And in the parable of the lost son or is it the parable of the lost sons there are two sons that are lost & once again the father does whatever it takes to bring them home. He is willing to run, to plead, to forgive, to restore, to kill the fatted lamb, for no expense will be spared to bring back the lost. So, what is in God's heart? The lost, he wants to bring the lost back home

And we know that because Jesus shows us the heart of our heavenly Father. He left his home in heaven, he came to this earth, he searched for those who were lost and he ended up dying on the cross for them, in order to bring them home. He gave up everything, he made a costly sacrifice, he gave his own life, in order to show us all God's grace.

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The cost of God's grace, the cost of bringing us home falls not on us but on him. We are restored, we are forgiven, we enter the feast of our father freely. Graciously. At no cost. Because God Himself was willing to pay the cost. The massive cost of the death of his son. Of Jesus being separated from the father & his home, in order to bring us back home. What is in God's heart? The lost is in his heart. And he will go to any lengths to bring us home.

Slide 18

And what is one word that describes this home. JOY! The shepherd throws a party for the lost sheep. The woman calls her neighbours in to rejoice at the lost coin. The father invites the neighbours in for a joyous time of feasting when the lost son comes back home. This home is where real joy is. We often think that joy happens when we have money or power or family or influence, but true joy is being home, home with the father.

Slide 19

So, in some ways we need to see ourselves in all three of the main characters of this incredible parable. We need to see how we are like the younger son & have wandered away from home and need to hear about God's grace and come back repentant. We need to see how we are like the older son and how often our goodness stops us from loving the father and loving those that God has placed around us. And we need to be more like the father and reach out to the lost, showing them God's grace and calling them to finally come home.

Slide 20

The devotional "Our Daily Bread" tells the story of a woman named Edith who was feeling frustrated with life and on a whim as she was walking past a Church decided to go inside. The Bible passage that was read that day included these words from the old KJV of Luke 15:1-2. *"Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured saying 'This man receiveth sinners and eateth with them.'"*

That's what was read but here's what Edith heard. "This man receiveth sinners and Edith with them." It shocked her. She was the one of those sinners that Jesus wanted to eat with. This passage wasn't just for someone else it was her. And I hope that you can see it is not just for Edith but for you and me as well. And it is a call to come home, whether we are near to God or far, it doesn't matter. The father is waiting for us today. So, come home to him.

Slide 21

Friends, have you ever walked through the arrivals gate at the airport, scanned the crowd and then saw who you were looking for? Your husband, your wife, your kids, your parents. They see you and their faces light up, tears come to their eyes and they run towards you. The journey is now well and truly over. You're finally home.

Why is that such a moving moment? Because home isn't ultimately a house. It's a relationship. Home is where the people who love you are. And our ultimate home is where our heavenly father is running towards you & me, putting on a party for us and where the celebrations and joy take over. So why don't we come home. Today. The father is inviting you today. And all you have to do is to come to Jesus, repent of your sins and accept his grace.

Song – Amazing Grace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0gLntLIBYw>

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come
This grace that brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home
4. When we've been here ten thousand
years
Bright, shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun
5. Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

Closing. *“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.’³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” (Luke 15:31-32)*