

Sunday Service ~ January 5, 2025

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Prayer

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

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

Song – How great is our God <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 – Genesis 3:1-7 (NIV)

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” **2** The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, **3** but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the

tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.”⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Announcements

Focus for Month: Talking to God. Could we resolve this year to spend more time with the Lord? Talking to him in prayer and hearing his voice back to us through the Scriptures? Can we carve an extra 5-10 minutes each day to be with him, without distractions or phone just to grow in your trust in Him? Could we model how to talk to God for our kids and grandkids? There are many things we could do this year but surely this is something we must do!

Interactive Service Questionnaire. Thanks so much to the 90 people who filled in our survey. The results showed that it is used by about 20 people each week and by a further 25 people (on average) when they can't get to our Church services. When they use it they all read (or watch) the sermon and many sing the songs, read the Bible readings and also sing the songs. We thought it might be time to either stop the service or to just send a copy of the sermon but it seems like enough people are using it for us to keep sending it in the same format each week.

New City Catechism. Each week in 2025 we are going to print a question from the New City Catechism. Sometimes we might say together, other time it will be pointed out in the announcements and other times still there will be no reference to it at all. But it is there for you to look at, ponder and maybe even memorise. Catechism have been used for generations to lock the Scriptures away within our hearts and minds. Maybe in 2025 you might choose to use a catechism to grow in your knowledge and faith.

Question 1. What is our only hope in life and death?

Answer: That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ.

Scripture Reference: For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. **(Romans 14:7-8)**

Church Camp 2025. 7-9 March at Tahlee (Port Stephens) with Michael Boyd. **Early Bird has been extended to Sun 5 Jan** and general rego ends 2 Feb. There's two easy ways to register 1. Credit card -

<https://charlestownpresbyterian.square.site/>

2. Cash – Pick up a form in the church foyer (instructions on form) Info - Tom & Sarah Baldwin, Cheryl Gillard or Liz Hyslop

Regular activities of the Church are in recess and will not start back again until February 2025. We are extremely thankful for all those who have served us so faithfully this year. We aim to run no extra activities between Christmas Day and Australia Day so that everyone has at least a month to rest and recuperate.

Holiday kids church in the hall is available for all kids preschool-year 2. Years 3-4 are also welcome but may wish to stay in church. Years 5 and over and encouraged to stay in church. Activity packs are available at the back of church. Creche will run as normal.

Audric and Elise will be arriving on Friday 18th January or Saturday 19th January. We will need some people to help them when they arrive and we have down a working bee around the manse on the Saturday morning (and that works in well as we might be able to help with some of the unpacking). Please note this in your diary and we will have more details closer to the time.

Pastoral Prayer

Pray for Somalia (Population 17 million, Christians 200). If discovered, believers' risk being killed on the spot by Islamic extremists. Please pray That believers who risk everything to follow Jesus will be strengthened. For protection for Christians who are at risk from Islamic extremists. That isolated believers will have opportunities for fellowship.

Pray for our mission team in Hog Harbour today. For Stephen as he preaches morning and afternoon. For members of the team as they do a kids talk and a testimony. That we can encourage others in their faith. And we might have high energy levels for the building work, youth programme and leadership training that we will do tomorrow.

Pray for our surf lifesavers and fire fighters. Praise God for all the voluntary work that goes on behind the scenes to keep us safe. Pray that those who are in danger would be wise in what they do and seek help. Thanks God that we have the ultimate lifesaver in Jesus.

Pray for Aroche. (Stu B to provide)

Bible Reading – Mark 10: 17-34 (NIV)

¹⁷ As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honour your father and mother.'" ²⁰ "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." ²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²² At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. ²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴ The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." ²⁸ Then Peter spoke up, "We have left everything to follow you!" ²⁹ "Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first." ³² They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. ³³ "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴ who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

Song – May the mind of Christ my Saviour

[May the Mind by Emu Music \(with Lyrics\) - YouTube](#)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. May the mind of Christ, my Saviour,
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and power controlling
All I do and say.</p> | <p>4. May the love of Jesus fill me,
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
This is victory.</p> |
| <p>2. May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His power.</p> | <p>5. May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.</p> |

3. May the peace of God my Father
Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing.

6. May His beauty rest upon me
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only Him.

Sermon – Followers vs FOMO (Dave Wigney)

Following footballers. What does it mean to follow someone?

Slide 2

I saw the other day that the person with the most followers on both Facebook and Instagram was Cristiano Ronaldo – a soccer player. Some 600 million people are interested in the musings posted on Facebook and Instagram by a guy who is really good at kicking a round ball into a net. Also the other day I discovered to my surprise that I now had 8 followers of my account on Letterbox D. Letterbox D is a movie reviewing site in which I had a brief flurry of activity where I wrote a few acerbic reviews of movies I really hated. I then got bored with it and haven't put anything on it of now at least 12 months. But what does it mean to follow Jesus?

Does it mean reading the bible online and responding with the occasional thumbs up or LOL? Does it mean going on a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands? Does it mean coming to church every week to both morning and evening services. In the gospels there are just over 30 instances where Jesus tells people that they need to follow him. Therefore, if it's something we should be doing it also might be helpful to consider what is stopping many indeed most people in Australian society from being followers of Jesus. There's not just one reason why people don't want to be followers of Jesus but I believe that for many people FOMO is a, if not the, main reason they choose not to follow Jesus. So, this morning in honour of Stephen who likes a bit of alliteration in his sermon headings but is away I decided to call this sermon Following vs FOMO.

Slide 3

FOMO and the Fall What's FOMO? FOMO is short for fear of missing out. It has usually been linked with social media and refers to anxiety or stress caused by missing out on social events or not having been invited to attend in the first place. Facebook and Instagram feed off FOMO as users endlessly scroll through the various feeds concerned that their friends might be having a good time without them. But is it really something new? Facebook is new, Instagram is new, Tim Tok is new, using abbreviations instead of coherent sentences is new so therefore FOMO must be something new right? But isn't it just like our modern age to think that we are the first generation to ever experience something.

Slide 4

As we look at our two bible passages this morning I would like to make a case that FOMO has been around since right back at the beginning.

Slide 5

In Genesis chapter 3 what is the essence of the snake tempting Eve to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. The serpent is saying God is holding out on you. There is something good that God won't let you have. You don't want to miss out on being wise. You don't want to miss out on deciding for yourself what is good and evil. You don't want to miss out on being like God. You see the bible tells us that God is both all powerful and all loving but the serpent caused FOMO in Adam and Eve by attacking these truths. God isn't all loving. He doesn't want what's best for you. What's more God is not so powerful either. He is afraid of you and doesn't want you to become like him.

Slide 6

Fundamentals of FOMO

Therefore, the essence of FOMO is that I want to decide what is good for me, not God. Before we take a closer look at our New Testament passage, I just want us to think about the implications of this. In our society today there is an almost unquestioned assumption that I know what's best for me.

Slide 7

I'm not going to tell you how to live your life people will say, you do you. And that may be true in that I may understand what is good for me better than you understand what is good for me. However, I will make this point that no one in their right mind would let a two year old decide for themselves what to eat and drink every day. They would soon die of malnutrition as they ate coco pops morning noon and night. And do we really think that when we turn 18 that suddenly we develop deep wisdom and insight into making life choices that will benefit us for the long term?

God created us and he loves us so don't you think that when God places before us what might seem to be restrictions such as don't steal from other people, don't sleep with that person who is not your husband or your wife, don't seek revenge against people who hurt you. Don't you think that maybe just maybe God might have good reasons and that his position as eternal omnipotent and omniscient God just might give him an advantage over you in determining what is and is not good for you in life? But that's the problem.

As I said before FOMO leads us to doubt both God's qualifications and his motivations to lead and guide us in life. That is to doubt his power and his love and therefore we feel that we need to take matters into our own hands otherwise we will miss out on things that we have decided for ourselves are in our best interests.

Slide 8

Fundamentals of Following

Fanatical. We will never properly deal with our FOMO unless we understand what following Jesus actually means. If we hold a very weak view of what it means to follow Jesus then our deep underlying FOMO may never be properly dealt with. The first thing this passage says about following Jesus is that it is comprehensive. In Matthew, Mark and Luke we are told that a man came running up to Jesus. In Matthew he is described as a young man and in Luke he is described as a ruler. So sometimes he gets referred to as the rich young ruler.

Slide 9

So why are these details significant? Well, here is a guy who doesn't seem to be missing out on anything. He has money, he has youth and he has authority. What's more he also seems to possess what we might describe as moral excellence. He's a good bloke. Jesus says to him you know the commandments. Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not defraud, honour your father and mother. That is to say he isn't violent, he doesn't sleep around, he is honest, he has integrity and he's even good to his dear old mum and dad. To top it all off he is even humble. In verse 17 it says that the man ran up and knelt before him. People of wealth and influence in that society did not run up to anyone and they certainly didn't kneel before others. If we hear of someone who claims to have no faults then we may think that they are self-righteous and arrogant. But this man acknowledges that he hasn't got it all together and he acknowledges that he lacks something and he is humble enough to acknowledge this in front of a crowd. Are we not all the more impressed when someone who we think has it all together confesses to us that that they don't have it all together. So, he's rich, young, influential and an excellent bloke who is always looking to improve himself.

How does Jesus respond to such a request? Firstly, it says that Jesus looked at him and loved him. If this were a religion other than Christianity then we might have expected it to say and Jesus looking at him loved him and said to the crowd do you see this guy? He's exactly what I'm looking for. Why can't you guys be more like this dude? But what does it actually say?

Slide 10

Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to

the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.

The problem this young man was that he thought following Jesus was an extra. He thought he could follow Jesus but still keep all his money prestige and influence for his own use. But Jesus will have none of this. Jesus looked at him and loved him because he saw his deepest need. What you need more than anything else in life is to come follow me but your money is holding you back so give it all away. I'm saying this to you because I love you. You think you know what is best for you but I'm telling you, you don't. You need to trust me in this. I love you too much to let you find satisfaction in your wealth which won't last, rather than in me who will last forever.

Jesus is like a skilled surgeon who doesn't just apply the same treatment to everyone. Imagine if you visited a surgeon and he or she said right I'm going to take your tonsils out. But I'm having trouble with a sore knee! Well, that's my answer to everything – remove the tonsils. Jesus identifies the thing or things that are preventing us from following him and then says to us this has to go. And he does this because he loves us not despite loving us.

Over the years I and I suspect many other people have struggled with this passage. So, should we be selling everything we have and giving it to the poor or shouldn't we? But to ask this question is to kind of miss the point. The key point here is come follow me. What is it that is preventing us from whole heartedly comprehensively following Jesus? What is it in our lives that is non-negotiable, that we will not allow ourselves to miss out on even if God tells us that we need to. Don't you love Peter. It says in verse 28 then Peter spoke up "we have left everything to follow you". Can't you just see him? His whole world view has been turned upside down and so he pipes up "we have left everything to follow you". How does Jesus' reply? He doesn't reply Peter relax. You don't need to leave everything. Just give away 10% of what you earn. Just come to church once in a while. Just try a bit harder to be a good person.

Slide 11

No Jesus actually affirms following him involves being willing to leave behind anything and everything for his sake and for the sake of the gospel. In verses 29 it talks about leaving homes at the beginning of the verse and fields at the end of the verse. To a Jewish person at the time your home represented the wealth you had now and fields represented the wealth you had for the future as fields and farming were the main way of generating income. To put this in today's terms Jesus is telling us that following him means putting our bank account and also our source of income at His disposal. To add to this Jesus mentions brothers or sisters, mothers or fathers or children. To a family-oriented farming culture like Israel this would be short hand for everything that matters in life. Following Jesus had to be a priority above everything that a Jewish person would have held near and dear. Following Jesus needs to be comprehensive. If anything, and I mean anything prevents us from following Jesus then we need to be willing to leave it behind. Following Jesus needs to be not just our number one priority but the priority that shapes all other priorities.

Everything we have or do or own in our lives needs to be subordinate to following Jesus. God may allow us to keep our homes and our lands. He may allow us to keep up our relationships with friends and families but what if we have to choose? What if my employer tells me that I must do something that would be contrary to following Jesus? What if the only job I can find that permits me to work with integrity pays a lot less than I earn now? What if I am tempted to give away less of what I earn so I can afford a nicer house, better or more holidays? What if my friends and family make it clear that they don't want to hang around with me any more until I let go of this Jesus stuff? Will my FOMO for wealth and relationships cause me to opt out of following Jesus in all aspects of my life?

Slide 12

So, let me ask you what is your deepest FOMO? What is it that if you don't get it you will feel as though you have missed out on life. It might be money or at least financial security, but it might be marriage, it might be children, it might be travel, it might be a house. Do you say to yourself as long as I have X then my

life will be worth living. What is it that if I miss out on then I will feel angry with God, that I will accuse him of treating me unfairly? What is it I feel entitled to? What is it that we are most tempted to take matters into our own hands because God doesn't seem to know what's best for us? Do you have a bucket list? A list of things you feel you have to do before you die? The very premise of a bucket list is that this life is all there is. And if we don't cram into our life as many experiences as possible then somehow, we will have missed out. What would you do if you were told you had two years to live? Would you race around like a lunatic trying to see as many different places as you can? Would you immediately drop all your Christian ministries so that each weekend you can go hang-gliding, white-water rafting and parachuting? The bible is full of not just occurrences of FOMO but also the disastrous consequences FOMO leading us to not put our trust in God. Eve thought she was going to miss out on being wise as well as being able to decide for herself what was good and evil. All of humanity has been paying the price of that decision. Abrahams fear that he was going to miss out on having a son led him to sleep with his wife Sarah's servant girl so she could give him a son. The rivalry between Ishmael the son by the slave girl and Isaac the son of Sarah is still being acted out in the Middle East by their descendants to this day. King Davids fear of missing out on sex with Bathsheba led to the near collapse of his kingdom. What is your deepest FOMO and are you ready to have Jesus be not only Lord of your day-to-day life but also Lord of your dreams and your deepest desires?

Slide 13

Facing Falsehoods of Faith

The second point about following Jesus is that it completely changes our understanding of what it is to be part of the kingdom of God. In verse 23 it says Jesus looked around and said to his disciples how hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God. When Marks gospel says something along the lines of Jesus looked around he isn't just including an incidental detail.

Slide 14

Mark is saying in his typically economical writing style that Jesus wanted to make sure that the disciples were absolutely clear about this. He looked around. Do you understand what I am saying here. Listen very carefully. This is definitely in the exam. How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God. As he looked around his disciples, he must have seen the looks on their faces, that they were amazed at his words. So, he said it again children how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God. It says in verse 26 that the disciples were even more amazed. You see in their world view being rich was a sign that you had God's approval. They splutter out who then can be saved. If the rich can't be saved then who can? In almost every other system of thought and belief good things happen to good people bad things happen to bad people. But following Jesus turns this all on its head.

Slide 15

Becoming part of the kingdom of God is a miracle and act of sheer grace. If you read some discussions on this passage there is mention of a thought that there was an eye of the needle gate in Jerusalem that a camel could only pass through on its knees and if everything that it was carrying was taken off its back. But most people now agree that this is not true at all. Entering the kingdom of God through our own merit really is as impossible as a camel passing through the eye of an actual needle.

The phrase should be taken at face value. Understanding this also helps us to deal with our FOMO. FOMO thrives within an attitude of entitlement. I deserve this. God owes me this. But when we accept that everything we have is completely undeserved then there is no room for FOMO because in the words of Romans 11:34- 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?"

Slide 16

Fantastically Fulfilling

The third point I want to make about following Jesus is that it is worth it. I'll be really brief on this point.

But Jesus is not just saying follow me because you'll go to heaven the so-called pie in the sky when you die although that is true. Jesus is saying following him is worth it now - steak on the plate while you wait.

Slide 17

Let's imagine for a moment that your Christian faith did cause you to become estranged from your biological family. You might say to yourself well at least I've got my Christian family. But Jesus goes way beyond this. Our relationships with our Christian brothers and sisters is more than just a consolation prize. The depth and quality and generosity of relationships with our Christian brothers and sisters should, if anything, surpass the relationships with our biological sisters and brothers now as well as into eternity. Not that Jesus is not saying following him will be easy. Notice how he mentions persecutions are an integral part of following him. But there is a depth, a substance, now to the life we will lead if we follow Jesus compared to the life we would lead if we were to give into our FOMOs. Think wagyu steak vs fruit tingles or fairy floss, Beethoven 9 th symphony vs Achey Breaky Heart. There is a quality of life and relationships now when it part of following Jesus that our FOMOs can never hope to match in this life or the next. CS Lewis summed this up beautifully.

Slide 18

We are half hearted creatures fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because we cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea.

Slide 19

Following fearlessly in faith

So, I said back at the beginning that FOMO causes us to pull back from whole heartedly following Jesus because with FOMO we are tempted to think that God doesn't love us enough or he is not is powerful enough or both to give us what we want in life. But Jesus tells us that to enter the kingdom of God we have to trust him with every aspect of our lives and follow him. What qualifies Jesus to tell us this?

Slide 20

We see this in the final verses of the passage in Mark where Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to Jerusalem where he will be killed but 3 days later will rise again to life. Is God holding out on us because he doesn't really love us? Hardly. He sent his son Jesus to die for our sins. Does God have the power to bring us into his kingdom to live with him forever. Can he really give eternal life? Well, he raised Jesus to life so death clearly isn't something beyond his power. The call to follow Jesus is extreme. It is comprehensive, it challenges us to see everything we have in life is an act of grace and above all it is worth it both now and for eternity. We don't follow Jesus because he is useful. If you think following Jesus is just the way to get what we decide we want in life then we are not really dealing with our FOMO. We follow Jesus because he is beautiful. As Stephen has been showing us in the book of Hebrews whatever we may find beautiful in life, Jesus is better.

Slide 21

Hebrews 1:3. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Slide 22

And finally in Romans chapter 8 some verses that were for me a great encouragement when I was struggling with being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease at 48 and feeling a bit resentful that I was going to miss out on perfect health to 100 years old

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

And later in verse 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the

present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Song – In His Name <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQfqseU2qA>

1. The prophets saw in ages past
Light in the distant dawn
The King is bound in agony
Will rise to life again
And in his name a saving word
Release from every stain
And in the darkness we have heard
This is God's only plan
This is God's only plan

Verse 2

The Son of God now in the flesh
He seeks to save the lost
A King who left his majesty
Behind to set us free
And in his name a saving word
Release from every stain
And in the darkness we have heard

This is God's only plan

Chorus

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great redeemer's praises
O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great redeemer's praises

Verse 3

His Spirit gives us words to speak
'Jesus Christ is Lord'
And as he breaks the hardest heart
He's worshipped and adored
And in his name a saving word
Release from every stain
And in the darkness we have heard
This is God's only plan

Closing. *“Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first.” Mark 10:29-31)*