

Sunday Service ~ February 23, 2025

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Prayer

"LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.

² Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. ³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? ⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour. ⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: ⁷ all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, ⁸ the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. ⁹ LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

Let's pray. Dear Lord Almighty, how majestic is your name in all the earth. This day we wish the whole world would recognise your name, would recognise your power and grace and justice and mercy. We admit that we don't always remember how great you are. We don't always live in line with your holiness. We don't always rely upon your power. We don't always listen to your Word. So please forgive us. And place your Holy Spirit within us so that today we might worship you with heart, soul mind and body. We might be renewed in our faith. That we might desire to humble ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus each day. Be with us today and especially throughout this service, for we need you today more than ever. And we ask these things in Jesus' name Amen.

Song – Glories of Calvary [The Glories of Calvary With Lyrics By Sovereign Grace Music \(feat. Norton Hall Band\) - YouTube](#)

1. Lord, you're calling me to come
And behold the wondrous cross
To explore the depths of grace
That came to me at such a cost
Where Your boundless love
Conquered my boundless sin
And mercy's arms were opened wide

2. Sinners find eternal joy
In the triumph of Your wounds
By our Saviour's crimson flow
Holy wrath has been removed
And Your saints below
Join with your saints above
Rejoicing in the Risen Lamb

Chorus: My heart is filled with a thousand songs
Proclaiming the glories of Calvary
With every breath, Lord how I long
To sing of Jesus who died for me
Lord, take me deeper
Into the glories of Calvary

Chorus x2
Bridge: For all eternity we will sing worthy
Our God has set us free
We'll sing the glories of Calvary
Repeat Bridge
Chorus

Bible Reading – Matthew 9:1-8 (NIV)

"Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. ² Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."³ At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"⁴ Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?⁵ Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?⁶ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So, he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home."⁷ Then the man got up and went home. ⁸ When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man."

Announcements

Focus for Month: Relationship with God. Do want to deepen your relationship with God? Because it just won't happen. You need to create space for it, spend time with the Lord, read his word, pray and prioritise worship. What are you willing to do today to grow in your relationship with God?

SRE Dedication service TODAY from 2pm at New Vine Beaches Church @ Jewell.

Breaking the Silence Training. Please note that all of our people who are involved in leadership and children's ministry need to either do the full Breaking the Silence training (every three years) or a top up (the in between years). That means that if you would like to continue to serve in this way you need to do something NOW about it. The Top up training will be held TODAY from 11:30am-12 noon at the Charlestown Church. If you can't make it you can do it online at <https://breakingthesilence.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/BTS-2024-Other-Policy-Code-of-Conduct-Dec-2024.pdf>

Charlestown Presbyterian FC Player Registration Our church participates in the Hunter Christian Churches Football every autumn and winter. Player registration is now opened for the Church men's and women's team. If you're interested in joining or know someone who might be interested in playing one of our teams, please contact Sam Taylor or Cheryl Gillard.

Charlestown Redevelopment. (If room) Please continue to pray that we find the right builder at the right price who can complete the job in the right time frame.

Tonight. If you were encouraged by our young people reporting back on their time in Vanuatu then you will be greatly encouraged by coming to Sunday @ 6 tonight where a number of our young people will make their profession of faith.

New City Catechism – Question 8. What is the law of God stated in the 10 commandments? *You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below—you shall not bow down to them or worship them. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. You shall not covet.*(Exodus 20:1-17)

Small Groups. Don't forget to consider joining a small group.

Interested in Mission to Kenya? The annual mission Samburu Seminar will take place on Saturday 1st march from 10am -5pm in the Hunter Valley. For more information, please see Chris Hutchin or Stephen.

Women's Paint n Sip.

Upcoming Dates

- Saturday 22nd March Working Bee
- Friday 7th March World Day of Prayer (Charlestown Uniting & Caves Beach C3)

Pastoral Prayer

Pray for Pakistan. (Population 245 million, Christians, 4.5 million). Pakistan's **notorious blasphemy** laws are often used to target minority groups, but Christians are disproportionately affected. Roughly a quarter of all blasphemy accusations target Christians who make up just 1.8 per cent of the population. Blasphemy laws carry a **death sentence**. For God to change the hearts and minds of decision-makers regarding blasphemy laws. That Christians will know they are not second-class citizens in God's eyes. For God to protect Christian women in Pakistan who can be forced into marriage.

Pray for the Applybys (Pioneers, Asia): Pray for Gilbert's students studying Church History in Asia, that they would grasp the way God has been at work and be inspired to take up their place in his ongoing work of bringing all nations to himself. Pray for Pastor Ronald, for his extensive burns(from a house fire) to completely heal after 10 months & for his wife who is suffering from PTSD flashbacks. Pray for God to raise up teams of workers to engage with the unreached Ch@m "cousin" minority in Cambodia & for the 2 single women workers there in tough conditions.

Pray for those affected by **Domestic violence** in this nation. Pray for places of safety for victims. For justice for those whose cases end up before the courts. For support for those who go through these many trials. And that Churches would be safe havens for all.

Pray that our relationship with the Lord would grow deeper & stronger.

Bible Reading – Matthew 9:9-17 (NIV)

⁹“As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. ¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” ¹⁴ Then John’s disciples came and asked him, “How is it that we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?” ¹⁵ Jesus answered, “How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast. ¹⁶ “No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. ¹⁷ Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

Song – Undivided [Undivided \(Acoustic Song Leading Video\) // Emu Music - YouTube](#)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Give me an undivided heart
That I might fear Your name
Teach me to walk in righteous paths
And follow in Your ways
For You are gracious and forgiving
Hear, O Lord, and answer me</p> | <p>Chorus
Undivided, I want to live for You
Single minded, All that I say, all that I do
Sanctify me
Take me and make me new
That I might live for Christ, my Lord</p> |
| <p>2. Give me an undivided mind
That I might love Your word
Help me to hunger for Your voice
And know Your spirits sword
For You are good, Your truth unchanging
Life is found in serving You</p> | <p>3. Give me an undivided love
For all that You desire
Make me a living sacrifice
Ignite in me your fire
For you O Lord are God eternal
All my ways are known to You</p> |

Sermon – A Radical Rethink (Stephen T)

Sermon link: <https://youtu.be/XShWGEMEPgU>

It’s interesting when you go on holidays and go to a completely new Church or when you go to a Christian wedding or a funeral from a completely different religious background to your own because if you are ready to think long & hard about the experience, you will find some aspects of the worship very strange & confronting while others are quite helpful. You see all of us are probably used to a certain way of doing worship but when you go somewhere else you realise there is not just one way that we worship the Lord. Some other cultures and traditions have got some really good ideas and others are just plain unhelpful and unbiblical.

Every year we take our mission team to at least two different worship services in Vanuatu, a Presbyterian service and an apostolic service. And it is always profitable to talk afterwards about what we have experienced – how did you respond to the music, the formality, the dancing, the prophecy, the prayer time, the experience of the whole day being the Sabbath. When you are confronted with something new &

different it should lead to a radical rethink about our own ways of doing worship, to work out which are biblical and which aren't.

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Likewise, our next three stories of Jesus from the gospel of Matthew should make us have a radical rethink about what we are doing in Church and as a Church. As Jesus meets the paralytic and his friends, we need to think about what is the most important need that people have. When we see Jesus eating with Matthew and his friends, we should be challenged by the sort of company that we keep. And then when Jesus is asked about fasting, we should ponder deeply whether we are just doing the traditional things or the things that Jesus would have us do. Today we will get to see that sin, sinners and wineskins are all important when it comes to how we live the Christian life. Starting with...

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1. Forgiving Sin (Verses 1-8)

"Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. ² Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." Let's firstly notice that Matthew leaves out many of the details that Mark and Luke include. Jesus own town is Capernaum and he was teaching in a house, a crowded house when four friends bring their paralysed mate to be healed by Jesus. And they couldn't get to him easily so they go up on the roof, make a hole and gently lower him before Jesus.

It's a great story but why doesn't Matthew include such fascinating details? Maybe because he wants to zero in on his key idea. In the past Matthew has shown us that Jesus has authority over both sickness & the storm, now we see he also has power over sin. Matthew is saying to this man, his friends and to us that whereas paralysis is a problem, sickness is a problem, cancer is a problem, the real problem that needs to be dealt with is sin.

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Now I wonder do you believe that, really believe that? When you look at the US Presidential election the real way to make America great again is not to increase tariffs or decrease migration, it is the need for Americans to have their sins forgiven. When we go into John Hunter hospital and see all types of terrible diseases in every direction, the thing these people need more than anything else is not a doctor but a saviour. When we meet people at work or at school or in our neighbour, there are all sorts of presenting issues that others face but the biggest one by far is do they want to turn to Jesus to have their sins forgiven?

Actually, it is not just about others but it's a question we need to ask ourselves as well. How seriously do I view my own sin? You know I can get consumed with my dodgy knee or that my mum has recently moved out of our family home or by the number of hours and stress I am under at work and all of these things are incredibly important. But it's not as important as repenting of my sin and asking Jesus to forgive me that sin.

Slide 5

³ *"At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!" ⁴ Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? ⁵ Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?"*

Now it is not hard to follow the Pharisee's logic. Point one – only God forgives sins. Point two – but Jesus is a man! Point three – therefore, Jesus is blaspheming by claiming for Himself a role and a power and an authority that belongs only to God. You see their logic? It makes sense, real sense. But it is flawed and so Jesus wants to show them and the crowds that yes, he can heal the paralysed man and yes, he can forgive his sins, because he has the authority of God to do both. And so, he demonstrates he has the power to do the harder thing (forgive sins) by linking it with the easier thing (heal the man).

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⁶ *“But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So, he said to the paralyzed man, “Get up, take your mat and go home.”* ⁷ *Then the man got up and went home.* ⁸ *When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.”*

Jesus proves he has the authority to forgive sins by also healing this man of his paralysis. He gives physical healing to prove that he is also capable of spiritual healing. But at the very same time he telling us what he thinks is the most important thing going on here. The gift of forgiveness that he is offering this man is the greatest gift that he can give him because it meets this man’s greatest need.

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Often, we are told that we need to find the felt needs of the people around us and then show them how a relationship with Jesus can deal with those needs in a way so much better than anyone or anything else. And I don’t think that is wrong. But we also need to help people see their real need, the need that underlines every felt need. That is that their sin separates them from their God and they need to find forgiveness for their sins in order to come back into a relationship with God and live the life that God made them to live.

Slide 8

Now friends that should lead us to a radical rethink of what we think is the biggest problem that we face, that our family is facing and that our country and world is facing. If God thought we needed more education he would have sent us a teacher. If he thought we need more money he would have sent us a financial planner. If he thought we needed better government he would have sent us a prime minister. But he knows we needed forgiveness of sins so he sent us a Saviour. Someone who would bear the penalty for our sin so that we might enjoy the fruits of his righteousness.

Which is why this year we want to put the emphasis on the gospel so that people can know how to get right with God. On God himself so that they see how important that is for everyday life and on godliness so that we can have as our aim to live lives that better reflect the life of Jesus to others. For if he has the authority to forgive sins then that is why our next story shows us why he also wants to

Slide 9

2. Eat with sinners (verses 9-13)

⁹ *“As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.”*

Now why would Jesus want a tax collector to follow him? There are crowds of people everywhere, people all around wanting a front row seat for the hottest ticket in town and Jesus goes to this tax collector who is still at his desk, in his office, quietly working away? Doesn’t he know that tax collectors are outsiders? Thieves? Unclean? Sinners?

I remember, prior to being a minister, being at work and talking to a guy about an NRL referee who had officiated at a big game over the weekend. I said he must be one of the most hated people around for he was a tax official during the week and a league ref during the day. And this guy turned to me and said, “you should know, you’re an auditor.” Ouch!

But in those days tax collectors were hated because they were traitors who collected taxes for a foreign government. And what’s more they made lots of money doing it. For the government looked at a region and said we think there should be about 50,000 drachmas worth of tax to collect. And then they hired tax collectors to collect that amount but if they collected any more than the 50,000 drachmas, they could keep it. Which meant they always found ways of collecting way more taxes than what they should.

But here we see that Jesus is a friend of sinners. And seeing Matthew (the apostle who would write this very gospel that we are working our way through!) he reaches out to someone that everyone else would

have walked by. For God's kingdom is made up of all sorts of people, including those who have made a hash of their lives. "Follow me" Jesus says. And Matthew leaves everything and follows him. He burns his bridges by leaving his old way of life and throws his lot in with Jesus. And is so overjoyed that he throws a party.

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¹⁰ *While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"*

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You see the problem, don't you? Jesus is hanging around the wrong crowd. Doesn't he know Psalm 1 they probably say to themselves, "*Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers*" Well look where Jesus is sitting! How can he keep his ways pure amongst that filth?

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¹² *On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."* If you wanted to find a doctor you wouldn't look for them amongst well people but among the sick. And if you wanted to find the Saviour you would look for him amongst those who needed saving from their sins.

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Jesus is being compared to a doctor. As Warren Wiersbe says "*He comes to us in our need. He makes a perfect diagnosis. He provides a final and complete cure. And he pays the bill!*"

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And if the Church starts hanging around the wrong crowd, families will not want to bring their kids along to youth group. Respectable people won't want to rub shoulders with those who look different or act different or smell different. I was once talking to a Salvation Army officer who told me that the Salvos are known for their good works but if those guys, they are dealing with on a week day, end up coming to the church on a Sunday then he gets in all sorts of trouble as it ruins many people's worship experience.

Friends to reach the lost you have to be around the lost & you have to share the gospel with them. That will cause trouble. It will change the tone of the Church if some get converted. It will mean that we might have to do things differently. The evangelical Church has always done better amongst the educated due to its preaching and teaching of God's word. What happens if we attract people with a background of lower education standards? If we speak at their level we will be accused of watering down the gospel. Of not being biblical enough.

Friends it is so much easier if Churches are filled with the righteous rather than with sinners. Except all of us are sinners. None of us are righteous. Churches need to be mucky places where we all come with a whole lot of rough edges and seek Jesus' help to smooth them off. The Church is not a hotel for saints, it is a hospital filled with the sick, the suffering & sinful.

I'm reminded of the story of the Church meeting on a Sunday morning when a homeless man walked in. Immediately people moved across the pews so as to make it harder for him to sit next to them. So, the man wandered forward & the only place he could find to sit was right up the front on the floor in front of the pulpit. The service continued but everyone was obviously nervous. Then an elderly deacon wandered down the aisle himself and everyone thought. That's good. He will deal with this fellow. But instead, the deacon sat next to him & spent the rest of the service with him. That's being a friend of sinners. That's being like Jesus

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And that should force us into a radical rethink. Is this a place where sinners would be welcome? Is this a place where people who have mistakes in their life could find grace, mercy and Jesus? Yes here? Would we

sit beside them, or leave it to someone else? Would we invite them into our homes? Would we love the sinner while still hating the sin? Do we desire to be more like Jesus whose mission statement was to come & call sinners to Himself

There is a legend and it is a legend because it very unlikely to be true, but there is a legend that the Apostles Creed is called just that because each of the twelve apostles each wrote one line of its 12 lines. So, you can image Peter saying out loud "Well, I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord." And Thomas declaring "I believe in the resurrection of the body." And Matthew saying "I believe in the forgiveness of sins."

You see Matthew was a sinner who was called by Jesus to leave his life of sin & to follow Him. Likewise, I wonder if you and I really believe in the forgiveness of sins? For we are sinners, called to sup with Jesus and receive his salvation. And if that is true then we would not just want to check into the hotel of the saved but help man a hospital where other sinners can be saved.

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3. Forgive Sins, Eat with Sinners and lastly **New Wineskins**

"Then John's disciples came and asked him, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?" Notice the next issue that comes across Jesus' desk is a bit of friendly fire. It is John the Baptists followers who ask about Jesus religious practises and in particular his fasting.

For God's law said that on one special day, the Day of Atonement that all people should fast. The Day of Atonement was a special day, a holy day, where people could be reminded of their sin, and their need for a Saviour. So, on that day, you would not eat any food or drink and you would spend the day reaching out to God, turning from your sin, realising that God would need to do something special, amazing, sacrificial in order for my sins to be forgiven.

That's what the Law prescribed, but the Pharisees thought, why only do that on one day a year? We should be reaching out toward God all the time; we should be sorry for our sins constantly. We should desire a Saviour 24/7. So, they made a new law, that those who wanted to impress God shouldn't fast one day a year, but twice every week, every Monday and Thursday. Boy that will show God how obedient, how law abiding, how good we are.

But Jesus didn't follow this law and fast nor did his disciples. Didn't they want to reach out to God? Were they not willing to turn from their sins? Didn't they want to be obedient to the law? ¹⁵ *Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast"*

Going without is not the only way to reach out to God. Fasting is not the only response we should have. Sometimes feasting is more appropriate. Enjoying the good things that God has provided. Being thankful for the blessing that he has given us. At a wedding you don't fast, you feast. You don't mourn, you rejoice. So, both are appropriate. You have to understand your context. Jesus says the disciples will fast when the bridegroom goes. When they realise Jesus has died for their sins. But that is not now. It will be in the future. What the Pharisees need to realise is that Jesus is bringing in the new covenant which will fulfil much of the old.

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So, let's think for a moment about fasting then? Do you think this passage is saying we no longer need to fast because our bridegroom Jesus has come and is still here through the work of the Spirit? Well please note in Acts 13:3, 14:23 and 27:9 the apostles do fast. They saw that there was still a role for fasting when they came across obstacles to the gospel or needed to dedicate themselves fully to God in order to make the right decisions.

Does that mean that this passage is telling us that we must fast and fast regularly? We should give up meat on a Friday and stop eating certain foods for lent. Well then, if we do that, we might become Pharisees thinking our fasting puts us in a better class of believer because of what we do. That's like shoving Jesus new wine into our wineskins.

Instead, we are free to fast or not to fast. If we have big decisions or a sin that we need to resist or we want to spend extra time looking forward to the end of the world and the coming of the bridegroom we may choose to fast and spend that time in prayer or reading the bible or drawing near to God. For every religious practise we must ask the question is this helping me trust more in the finished work of Jesus? Is this compatible with God's grace? Is this giving me a greater love for the sinners that God has placed all around me?

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¹⁶ *"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. ¹⁷ Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."*

The new ways of Jesus cannot just be added to the old ways of the law. That would be like sewing a new piece of cloth on an old garment or like filling old wineskins with new wine. No with Jesus coming there needs to be new ways of worship, new ways of celebration, new ways of living. Ways that have Jesus at their very centre.

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Which means you and I need to have a radical rethink when it comes to the OT laws or our own denominational traditions. When we discuss fasting or worship or hymns or ceremony or the liturgical year, all these things bring controversy. Many a Church has been split over these issues. But the key point is how do we get the message of Jesus out to our modern world. Will the old ways do it or do we need to bring in the new? How do we clothe ourselves with Christ's righteousness? Is it about the externals or more about the heart?

Change is controversial. But some change is necessary. Holding to the core beliefs of the Bible is unpopular. But we can't afford to change our beliefs to avoid controversy. We need to keep bringing forth the message of Jesus in the best possible package for our modern day. In other words, we don't change the wine but we can put it in a glass, a bottle, a flagon or a cask. Whatever works the best in our context. Even if there are people around us who disagree.

But how do we put the forgiveness of sin at the centre of all we do? How do we offer God's amazing grace to sinners far and wide? How do we move on from the structures that worked so well or not so well in the past and find new structures, new wineskins so that the gospel of the Lord Jesus goes out to the people of Lake Macquarie today? What does it mean to hate the sin and love the sinner today?

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I don't pretend that we will all get the same answer to these questions as everyone else in this room. But what I would love for us to do is have those conversations together. Find ways and means to do this together. And where we disagree, let's not divide over it, instead let's all agree that forgiveness of sins is at the heart of what we believe, that being a friend of sinners is important to all of us and to do those things well we need to keep making sure the gospel of God's grace is not stifled or restricted by the structures that we put in place here but can thrive so that they make their impact in our homes, towns, country and world.

Song – In Christ Alone [In Christ Alone \(Official Lyric Video\) - Keith & Kristyn Getty, Alison Krauss - YouTube](#)

1. In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand
2. In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live
3. There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Benediction

¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Matthew 9: 11-12)