

Sunday November 22, 2020

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome

Good morning everyone, my name is Steve, and welcome to our service this morning as we come together in fellowship and worship our almighty Lord. And we are reminded of this in Psalm 9, where David writes, *"I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High"*

And as Stephen Taylor leads us through a new sermon series this morning on unusual pictures of the Church, I was reminded of the power that social media has in influencing people's lives. It has even led to a whole new occupation, with 'Influencers' or 'brand ambassadors' coming into existence. These are people who are well-known on the internet, with hundreds of thousands, or even millions of followers, who get paid handsomely to spruik or promote certain products, to generate interest and create awareness, and to represent the brand in a positive light.

And whilst we may not have millions of followers or get paid handsomely, we too though, are brand ambassadors. We are called by God to promote His Word, to tell others about Him, and to represent Him in our homes, schools, workplaces and our community. And when Stephen preaches to us later this morning, we will find out why, and how we can do this. But now, please join me as we spend some time talking to God in prayer.

Dear Heavenly Father, We praise you with all of our hearts, for you are the great creator, you have established your throne, and it will endure forever. Lord, we sing praises to your name, we will tell of your wonders and proclaim you to all the nations. For you will judge the world in righteousness, and will govern the people with justice. And Lord we know that this means that we should be punished for our sins. For you demand perfection, that you require us to be without blemish, to be Holy and pure.

But Lord, we know that we do not live up to your perfect standards. We have angered you, we have been greedy and selfish, we don't always put you first in everything that we do, and we seek to rely on our own abilities, rather than trusting in you. Because of this Lord, we know that we do not deserve to be with you; that we deserve death.

Lord, as we come before you, we do so with trembling and humility. We are truly sorry for the hurt we have caused you with our sins, and we ask for your forgiveness. We ask for your saving grace, Lord, that you have freely given. We ask that our sins may be set aside, and that our relationship with you may be restored. We ask that as we come before you this morning, Lord, that you will open our hearts to hear your Word. We pray that your Word may dwell in us, and will change us, so that we may uphold your almighty name. And we ask all of this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Song – Glories of Calvary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSa-E7uoBcc>
Song – In the cross of Christ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqksJxttep8>

Bible Reading – 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:1 (NIV)

¹¹ Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. ¹² We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. ¹³ If we are "out of our mind," as some say, it is for God; if we are in

our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:^[a] The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin^[b] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you."^[a] I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

Announcements

- **Kids Church** is now being run parallel to the 10:30am service. This means that we can now fit in another 30 people to our morning services. Any questions please speak to either Suzie or Stephen.
- **Morning Tea/Supper.** Please stick around for this time of fellowship
- **Face masks.** Currently the NSW State government strongly recommended that people wear Face masks if they attend places of worship but stopped short from saying you had to wear face masks. We would strongly recommend that you do wear Face masks in church at the current time. There will be some washable facemasks available from the back of the Church if you would like one.
- **Prayer meetings.** Don't forget we now have just one prayer meeting for the church, each Monday at 7m on ZOOM. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89793950885>
- **Focus for October – Reaching Out.** One of the good things that have happened during the pandemic is that many people have gone on line to learn about God. So is there any way that you can reach out to someone in this way? Send the interactive service perhaps? Use social media? Like a gospel presentation online? Send an apologetics article to a friend? You may not be able to do much there is surely something you can do this week?
- **New Sermon Series – AM services - unusual images of the Church.** They will include the following
 - 22/11 An embassy of ambassadors 2 Corinthians 5
 - 29/11 A worksite of builders 1 Corinthians 3
 - 5/12 A ship of fools 2 Corinthians 11
 - 12/12 A pile of rubbish 1 Corinthians 4
 - 3/1 A persistence (or embarrassment!) of parents 1 Thessalonians 2
- **Sunday School Presentation** will look a little different to previous years. It will held on Sunday December 6th. There will be a normal church service at 10:30 and a Kids Church that runs parallel at the same time. At the end of that time we will gather outside the hall where the Kids Church will present to us a memory verse they have been learning and prizes will be given to all the kids in attendance. If you are a family please try and come that week and the week before for a practise for the kids. And if you are not a family why not come to one of the services AND come around the back at 11:30am and support our gospel work among our young people
- **Church Camp.** Session has decided not to go away next year for the church camp. At this stage we are planning to have a teaching weekend based in Charlestown in its place. More details to come.
- **Lords Supper** will be celebrated at all of our services on Sunday 6th December.
- **Wee Waa Hampers.** Last year, our Church donated 30 Christmas hampers plus cash donations to our sister Church at Wee Waa. This year, we would like to do a follow-up gesture along the same lines, as there are still families in need within the district. So any donations of Christmas cheer can

be left at the Church. Also cash donations can be made through the plate or by electronic banking, but please remember to mark it "Wee Waa". All donations are to be in by Sunday, December 6 for delivery to Wee Waa the following weekend. For any enquiries, ring Ean Sutton on 0419 984 948

Song – Facing a task unfinished

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-YxQok6cPA>

Prayer (Jen Mulready)

Heavenly Father, We thank you for the assurance we have of salvation in the finished work of Christ. That we are safe and secure in your hands and safe and secure in the hands of Jesus. That neither death nor life neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

As we trust you for our salvation, LORD, may we also trust you in every other aspect of lives – with our relationships, our health, our money and our livelihoods. May we know the strength of your Spirit to trust you when we are sick, when we are lonely, when we are in distress. When the pain is great, when the tears come easily, when the circumstances in our lives seem out of control, may we rest in the knowledge that you are in control. May we rest in your grace and peace.

Father, we continue to place our trust in you in regards to COVID 19 and it's impact on our world. We thank you for the minimal burden of illness in Australia and pray for managing potential outbreaks in the future. We thank you for the wisdom and management of our governing authorities and pray that they will balance risk Vs functionality well. Please help our country not to be to isolationist in policy but that we would also seek to help resource those nations that may have little, being mindful of the famine, floods and civil wars that continue in our world but are overshadowed by pandemic. We pray for countries around the world that have limited resources, give them wisdom to balance the competing pressures of health vs the economy,. We pray for compassion for those who may usually fall through the cracks – the poor, the minorities. We bring before you in prayer the millions health workers from around the globe who are exhausted, traumatised yet see no end in sight. For those that know you we pray that you will comfort them, for those that don't know you we pray you will make yourself known. Please help them to find compassion though they are fatigued, please help them to find rest and some peace in this ongoing chaos.

We pray as individual's that we would recognise that we also have social responsibilities and that as individuals we have been given much- please help us to be generous, not to forget others in our community and in the wider world- help us to love those around us in practical ways and through prayer. Help us to hold out the hope of the gospel to those who may be seeking, to stand firm in the knowledge that you are Lord of all- even in disaster and death.

We thank you for people's creativity in reaching out to people. We especially thank you and praise you for the efforts of QuizWorz. We thank you that through the uncertainty of church meetings that QuizWorz have been faithful, productive and generous with their ministry to children and that we have been recipients of this at Charlestown Presbyterian. We thank you our Kids church and pray for our leaders. Please help them to teach Jesus faithfully, effectively and with heart with classes that include a wide mix of age and ability. Please help our children to adjust to the new learning environment as necessitated by health precautions. We pray specifically for the country of Turkey. While not illegal to be a Christian in Turkey, it is seen as a betrayal through the leaving of Islam and leads to discrimination. We ask for bravery, integrity – that our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ would live lives that honour and reflect Christ's love that they would shine for your name. In your precious son Jesus's name we pray. Amen

Bible Reading – 2 Corinthians 6:2-13 (NIV)

We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. ⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; ⁸ through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

¹¹ We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. ¹² We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. ¹³ As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.

Sermon – An Embassy of Ambassadors https://youtu.be/MxihCQb_JO4

On 26th August 2020, China's deputy of mission to Australia Wang Xining gave a rare address to the National Press Club in Canberra. He told the crowd and the watching media that China had been hurt by Australia's call into an investigation into the COVID-19 outbreak. "We don't think it was fair", he said. And he repeated the warnings that China's ambassador Cheng Jingye had made in April 2020 that if Australia pressed ahead with such an investigation the Chinese people might boycott Australian wine and beef.

Slide 2

Now no one was in any doubt that day that when China's representative spoke to Australia, China herself was speaking. For that is the role of the ambassador. To represent their nation to another nation. To speak on their behalf. To negotiate on their behalf. To find a way forward in the midst of any dispute.

Even today when nations can pick up the phone and call people directly. When foreign ministers can fly across the world at a drop of a hat. Nations still have ambassadors who leave their homeland, who live in the midst of another nation and who attempt to straddle the two worlds of their own nation and the nation they are living in.

Slide 3

So it comes as a bit of a shock to hear Paul talk about the fact that Christians are actually Christ's ambassadors. That we represent God Himself in his world. That God is actually making his appeal to a lost world, to a broken world, to a God defying world through us. Through you and me. Wow. That's a huge step up from being a resident of Lake Macquarie. That's a massive privilege and responsibility that we stand between God and his world with the ministry of reconciling these two warring parties. But that is what we are called to do.

Last week we saw that the Church was a team of athletes running in the race of life, this week we find out that the Church is an embassy of ambassadors charged with the ministry of reconciliation in a mucked up world. You get that? You and I are Christ's ambassadors. Representing God in our homes, our workplaces, our schools, our Church, our community. So what does that mean in practical terms?

Slide 4

Well let me begin with my own definition of an ambassador, before looking at our passage today. "An ambassador is someone... in the middle, with a message, about a mediator, who is motivated by God's gospel & who models Christ." (Repeat). So an ambassador is someone

Slide 5

1. In the middle (verses 18-19)

¹⁸ "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation."

An ambassador is someone who is *in the middle* of two very different parties. When we appoint an Australian ambassador to China for example, this person leaves Australia but remains an Australian. And they go to live in China and the compound they live in is actually Australian territory. Their job is to be the go between in the midst of these two nations.

And in the same way we Christians are in the middle between God and his world. We don't live in heaven, even though that is our real home. We live here in Lake Macquarie, in Australia, in God's world. But we represent God to this world and we try and point this world back to God.

Which means we need to know enough about God and His ways to properly represent Him. We need to know what God thinks on all sorts of subjects. For the ambassador, it is not really up to him to communicate what he thinks about the issues of the day. For they represent a higher calling. And so we need to spend time with God, listen constantly to God's word, be aware of the directing of God's Spirit and yet at the same time we need to know what the people around us believe. What values are important to them? And so we will need to know how to communicate these points of view to each other.

Slide 6

But we are not the world's ambassadors to Christ, we are Christ's ambassadors to the world. God is the one who has appointed us his representative. Now mankind is the party that has broken the relationship with God through his sin, his rebellion, through his defiance. But God is the one who seeking reconciliation. It is the Lord that has opened the door for a restoration of the relationship.

God is the one who has taken the initiative. He is the one who sent his Son Jesus to bring in the offer of peace. And he is the one who has commissioned us as his ambassadors. He is the one who has given us the task of reconciliation. And so when we speak on God's behalf we are to speak the very words of God to those around us. So there should be an authority about our words because we are not speaking our opinions, our thoughts, or even our own hopes and dreams. We are speaking God's word direct to God's world. But what do we say?

Slide 7

2. In the middle with a message (verse 20-21)

²⁰ "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

We are then to speak a message of reconciliation. It is a call to be reconciled to God. It is the good news that proclaims what God has done to enable these two parties to now come together again. You see when we sin and when we ignore God's ways for our lives and when we decide to live as if this isn't God's world, we break the relationship that God has with his creation. And that hurts God, it grieves him, it offends him. For He takes our sin personally.

Slide 8

But in his wisdom God has found a way to deal with that sin, a way to restore our relationship with Him. He sent his one and only Son, Jesus to come down to this earth as a man. And this Jesus lived for around 30 years and during that time, he never sinned. So he had no sin in him. So there was no need for him to take the punishment of sin, death. There was no need for him to have his relationship with God broken.

But he chose to allow that to happen to him. He whom God had made with no sin, became

sin for us. He went to the cross and God transferred our sin onto him. All the sins of the world onto him. And if that wasn't all what was in Jesus, righteousness, God's righteousness was then made available to the world. Sin travelled from the world to Jesus & Jesus righteousness was available to travel back from Jesus to the world.

It was the biggest and best swap of all history. Sin for righteousness and righteousness for sin. Death for life and life for death. War for peace and peace for war. Love for hate and hate for love. Judgement for freedom and freedom for judgement. Completely swapped. In a one off transaction. Never to be reversed anytime into the future.

Slide 9

That's the content of the message that we ambassadors have to this world. And it is a message that we are personally passionate about, convinced about and should understand fully. Because before we offer this message to others, we took the offer of that message ourselves. Remember what Paul said in verse 18. ¹⁸ *All this is from God, who **reconciled us to himself** through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:*

Slide 10

We were the ones that this reconciliation changed in the first instant. We were the ones who swapped our sinfulness with Christ's righteousness. We were the ones who were once far away from God and have now been brought back close to him. ¹⁶ *So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.* ¹⁷ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!*"

This is the wonderful exchange in Calvin's words. That we have already participated in. It's changed our lives already. It has moved us from citizens of Australia to citizens of heaven. It has turned our thinking and our lives upside down. And so we are the best people to communicate that message because that message is at the heart of who we are as believers, in the centre of all our thinking and it is the motivation for all that we do and say.

Slide 11

3. (About a Mediator (verses 19-20))

And it is a message not about us and what we did to be reconciled, it is a message about our mediator Jesus Christ ¹⁹ *that God was reconciling the world to himself **in Christ** not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation."*

It is not a message about counselling or education or accounting or sport or law and order. It is about Jesus Christ. It is about the cross and the resurrection. That's the hope of the world. Not who is the countries prime minister or president. Not how the economy is going. It's Jesus Christ. He's the hope for Australians. For all Australians. He is the mediator, the only mediator of the way to come to God.

Slide 12

And when you think about it no one else other than the Christian is going to tell others that message. No one else. They might talk about God or the church or good news or forgiveness but only the Christian is going to talk about Jesus. Only the embassy of ambassadors are going to tell others be reconciled to Christ. So the world is going to get this message from us or from ... no-one else.

And that should give us a sense of joy and excitement. God is going to make his appeal through you. Yes me and you! That's a pretty impressive job He is calling us to do. Something that you can put on your next CV, an ambassador to the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. One who has been entrusted with the good news about Jesus.

But it should also make us realise that really it is not about us. For no matter how capable we are, no matter how good you are at sharing the gospel with someone else, no matter how good your doctrine is,

we are not the one who is going to do the saving. That's Jesus job. God is making an appeal through us. God will bring those who are His to Himself. And those who are not Christs? Well they are not going to want to be reconciled with God anyway. So we preach Christ. We call people to be reconciled to God. And we leave the results in God's hands. So what will motivate us to do this most important task?

Slide 13

4. Motivated by God's gospel. (verses 11-17)

Let's go back to the start of our passage, verse 11. *"Since then we know what it is to **fear the Lord** we try to persuade men."* Well we know the implications of this gospel. If we hadn't believed in Christ we would have come under the judgment of God. And rightly so. God is more awesome than us, stronger than us, more powerful than us, holier than us. And so there should be within us an awe, a wonder, a fear. We were saved from that. People who don't believe in Christ will have to face that sort of a God on the last day.

So we fear what will happen to them. Yes it is just. Yes it what people deserve but you and I escaped from it by the hair of our chinny, chin, chin. Only because Jesus took our place on the cross. So the fear of God, a just judgement motivates us to do this work of reconciliation

Slide 14

As does the love of Christ. Verse 14 *"Christ loves compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."*

Now that's a strange choice of words isn't it Christ's love compels us. Because often we think of love as an emotion. Yet, love does compel. Many a family rejoice when at last their teenage son falls in love. For it means he starts washing his face, putting deodorant on, maybe, just maybe he might even comb his hair. Because love changes his behaviour.

In the same way when we experience God's love, when we realise that Jesus died on the cross for us & that the only way we could ever be reconciled with God, the only way we could ever go to heaven was because of God's love, we are compelled to tell others about this love. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:16 *"Woe to me if I don't preach the gospel!"*

Slide 15

Our love for God wants us to respond as his ambassadors. Our love for our friends and family compels us that we want them to be saved. Our love for God and his gospel wants his good news to be constantly on our lips. This fear reminds us what we have been saved from, this love places on our hearts what God has done for us and thirdly we are motivated because we see the difference that Christ has made in our lives.

Slide 16

¹⁷*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!"* The Kingdom of God has transformed the Christian. Something new has gripped their lives. Christ has taken a hold of us. We are a new creation in Christ. We are now living for Christ. It is part of our DNA. We can't be anything else but be advocates for Christ, fellow workers with Christ, ambassadors of Christ. That's not the job of ministers or missionaries or evangelists. That's our job. It is a part of who we are now are.

And so we can't do this task in a cold or detached way. We have to do it passionately. Enthusiastically. *"Since then we know what it is to fear the Lord **we try to persuade men.**" "Christ loves compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all and therefore all died."* *"As though God were making his appeal through us **we implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God.**"* This is important stuff!

Slide 17

When we truly understand what Christ has done for us, we will be compelled to be his ambassadors in his world. For an ambassador is someone in the middle, with a message about a mediator who is motivated by God's gospel and

5. Who models Christ.

Do you see how often Christ is mentioned in our passage. Verse 17 we are now "In Christ." A new creation. Because Christ is transforming us. Changing us. The Holy Spirit is making us more and more like Jesus. Verse 19 "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ." The same way that the Christian is saved or justified is the same we are sanctified or transformed. It happens when we are in Christ.

You see we are Christ's ambassadors. We implore others on Christ's behalf. We are representing him. For the ambassador is someone whose words must represent his country but so does his actions. And so he is not expected to let down that country by his behaviour. Rather he must be a worthy representative of that country and uphold its reputation in the eyes of others.

Slide 19

I remember hearing that a league of shame was published recently by the British government, listing those diplomats who had committed offences but could not be prosecuted because of diplomatic immunity. Those countries were very embarrassed, because their reputation is dependent upon the character of their representatives.

So it is with us as ambassadors for Christ. For although we called on to proclaim a message we know that the message can be overshadowed by the messenger. So we can't afford to say one thing and do another, the two must be in harmony. And when we do that it comes with it power of god's gospel.

Slide 20

Which is why James Denney, a Scottish theologian of the early 20th century once wrote, "A reconciled man, preaching Christ as the way of reconciliation and preaching him in the temper and spirit which the experience of reconciliation creates, is the most effective mediator of Christ's reconciling power."

Now do you believe that? Do you believe what Paul is telling us this morning? Because if you don't believe it, you will hang back. You will leave it to the professionals. To those more gifted than you. And that will mean you be will be found AWOL from the calling that God has given to you. To be a resident of this embassy of ambassadors.

Slide 21

But if you do believe it. If you realise that despite your weaknesses, your past failures, your struggles this is what God is calling you to do, then you will hear the note of urgency that Paul ends our passage with. "*As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ²For he says, 'In the time of my favour I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.' I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation.*"

Look out at the world around us. It's crazy isn't it? Politics? COVID? Poverty? Climate? War? The world is off its rocker. Its needs to be reconciled with its creator God. And God says yes it does! And because of it I have sent my one and only Son into the world to provide all the conditions for that reconciliation. And I am now sending out my ambassadors so that every person in every nation can hear the call to repent and come to Christ.

Slide 22

And it does work. The nineteenth century church historian, Philip Schaff, talking about the early Church said this, "*Christianity, once established, was its own best missionary. It attracted people by its very presence. It was a light shining in darkness, and illuminating the darkness. And while there were no professional missionaries devoting their whole life to this specific work, every congregation was a missionary society, and every Christian believer a missionary inflamed by the love of Christ to convert his fellow man.*"

Slide 23

Now without embarrassing anyone let me tell you about the best example of this currently happening in

our Church. There is a group of ambassadors that have ventured into the country of the young toddler. Each Wednesday they set up toys, games, food, fun and invite a group of young mums and dads with their children onto the grounds of our embassy.

They listen to their stories, they share their lives with them, they teach their children about Jesus and then they clean and disinfect everything after each session. And they invite those who are interested to Gingerbread House nights, to high teas, to Easter and Christmas events and to a course where over 7 weeks they hear about what Jesus has done for them. And throughout my time here at Charlestown about 10 people have done that course & 4 or 5 ladies have decided to leave their own land and become a part of the Kingdom of God.

It require great patience. It does cost them all in terms of time and effort and money. But the fear of God drives them. And the love of God compels them. And the fact that God has changed their lives and continues to transform their lives drives them on. For if God can do that to someone like them, he can do that to anyone.

And if they can do it, so can you and I. So leave this place and be Christ's ambassador in your home, amongst some who are yet to be convinced of the claims of Christ. Be Christ's ambassador at school and work where others will make fun of you. Build relationships with your neighbours, your sport mates, your friends and those you meet down the street.

Slide 24

That's our calling. To be Christ's ambassadors. *"Someone... in the middle, with a message, about a mediator, who is motivated by God's gospel & who models Christ."* Because do you know what? In God's economy now is the time of God's favour. Now is the day of salvation.

Song – By faith <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXB8ihepUpE>

Song – I'd rather have Jesus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u62uYEsk7o>

Benediction

²⁰ *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.* ²¹ *God made him who had no sin to be sin^[b] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain.* ² *For he says, "In the time of my favour I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you."*^[a] *I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation.*

Morning Tea

Our morning tea is a vital way that we give and receive fellowship during a time like this. We don't want to be just consumers of Church, we want to be a part of the family of God. So why not give one or two people a call. Who might your ring now?