

Sunday Service ~ May 4, 2025

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Prayer

Welcome on this Sunday morning where we come together and meet with the unchanging, immutable and eternal God. As we hear from God's word, would we realise that this encounter with Him should bring us to worship, to prayer, to a lifetime of obedience to Him who is worthy of it all.

Prayer.

Gracious Father,
 You alone are holy, worthy of all our love and devotion. Yet we confess how easily we turn good things into gods seeking life in achievements, comfort, control, and the approval of others. We burden them with expectations only You can fulfill, while our restless hearts wander from You, our true home.
 Have mercy on us. Tear down every idol we've erected even the subtle ones disguised as virtue or necessity. Forgive us for clinging to shadows when You offer us the substance of Your grace.
 Yet in Your kindness, You pursue us. You sent Christ to bear our idolatry's penalty and break its power.
 Now, by Your Spirit, reorder our loves. Fix our gaze on Jesus, the only One worthy of worship. May we find in Him the joy, security, and acceptance we've vainly sought elsewhere.
 We adore You, the God who satisfies. Draw us ever deeper into Your love, that we might live wholly for Your glory.
Amen.

Song – Won My Heart

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qB-zEw-6lw>

Verse 1

In the darkness there's a light before me
 And it drives away my fear
 In the silence there's a voice that calls me
 And it tells me You are near

Verse 2

In the chaos there's a hand that holds me
 And will never let me go
 Yes I know that You are always for me
 For Your word has told me so

Chorus

I will follow You
 I will walk by faith
 You have brought me near
 By Your unrelenting grace

I will set my mind
 On the things above
 You have won my heart
 With Your everlasting love

Verse 3

I was lost but then You came and found me
 And in love You brought me home
 I was dead in sin but then You raised me
 I am saved by grace alone

Bridge

For no height, no depth, no life, no death
 No pow'r on earth can take us from Your love
 No height, no depth, no life, no death
 No pow'r on earth can take us from Your love

Bible Reading – Exodus 3 (NIV)

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

⁴ When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."

⁵ "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

¹² And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.'"

1. "This is my name forever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation.

¹⁶ "Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. ¹⁷ And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.'

¹⁸ "The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God.' ¹⁹ But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. ²⁰ So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.

²¹ "And I will make the Egyptians favourably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. ²² Every woman is to ask her neighbour and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians."

Announcements

Webbs Missionary Visit. Please note our link missionaries Chris and Karen Webb will be visiting us TODAY and also joining the Young Adults Bible Study on Tuesday 6th May @ 7:15pm and the Swansea Bible Study on Wednesday 7th May @10:30am. All invited. Please make the most of this opportunity to think through indigenous ministries.

Focus for Month: Mission. How involved are you in the mission work of the Church around the world? Would you say you are heavily involved? Somewhat involved? A spectator? Or not involved at all? Don't forget God has a heart for mission, he has provided a salvation that is available for those of every tribe, colour and tongue. If that is God's heart and we are his sons or daughters, shouldn't it be our heart as well? If so, why don't you think about what you could do this month to be come more like God in this area?

Mission Month.

Sunday 11th May Josh Montzka

Sunday 18th May Compassion

Charlestown Church has moved! For the next 4-5 months we will be meeting at Charlestown Public School, on the corner of Smith St and Fredrick Sts. Please have a look around for the extra jobs that need

to be done (set up, car park attendant, clean toilets afterwards, sweep floors, first aid office etc) and see if you can help out with something.

Finance Report – Offerings

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|---------------------------|----------|
| Budget offerings – March | \$37,583 |
| Actual Offerings – March | \$40,741 |
| Surplus for March | \$ 3,158 |
| Deficit – Jan to Mar 2025 | \$10,828 |

New City Catechism: Question 20. Who is the Redeemer? The only Redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, in whom God became man and bore the penalty for sin himself. Scripture Proof – 1 Timothy 2:5 *"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*

Steve's Leave. Stephen is currently on leave until Thursday 8th May. If you have any pastoral needs please initially get in contact with Audric.

Men's Breakfast @ Swansea. Please keep Saturday 7th June free. More details in the next couple of weeks.

Swansea Ladies Morning Tea Monday 10th May at Channel Café Swansea. All welcome.

Sermon Series for Term 2 (all 3 services) ~ EXODUS – Saved for Worship

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|------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 4.5 | Exodus 3-6 | The Lord revealed |
| 11.5 | Exodus 7-10 | God Judgement on those not saved |
| 18.5 | Exodus 11-12 | A symbol of salvation |
| 25.5 | Exodus 13-15 | Praising the Lord who saves |

RENEW Women's Conference. Saturday 31st May 9:15am – 12:30pm. At Metford Baptist. Greta Gaut will be speaking on 2 Timothy. For more information visit www.hgm.org.au/register or speak to Linda Small.

Pastoral Prayer

Pray for Algeria: In 2024, Algeria intensified its crackdown on Protestant churches, closing all remaining ones or forcing them to halt regular services, isolating the Christian community. Strict laws regulate non-Muslim worship, banning actions that could "shake a Muslim's faith" or encourage conversion. Converts from Islam face persecution from family, radical Islamic teachers, and state officials, especially in conservative, rural areas. The government's pressure, combined with societal opposition, has severely restricted religious freedom for Algerian Christians.

Pray for Webbs (CMS, Broome People's Church). Prayer for Ezra, Daniel and Emily to continue to adjust to schooling here in Sydney, to make friends as well as keep contact with friends back in Broome. Pray for times of refreshment for Chris and Karen as take a break from many of their ministry responsibilities. Pray for good time with their wider families. Pray that they all may return to Broome ready to serve joyfully and effectively in June.

Pray for Sparklers, Youth and Kids Church

Commitment: Pray that as programs restart, leaders and volunteers would be refreshed and passionate about serving the children and youth.

Effective Discipleship: Ask God to provide meaningful opportunities to share the gospel and nurture faith in the young ones, helping them grow in Christ.

Gospel Impact: Pray that these ministries would be fruitful, reaching kids and families with the love and truth of Jesus.

Pray for the Federal Election

Godly Leadership: Pray that the Lord raises up Christian leaders who will faithfully represent both their constituents and biblical values in government.

Divine Sovereignty: Ask that all major parties recognize God's supreme authority and submit to His Word in their policies and decisions.

Wisdom in Voting: Pray that voters prioritize the nation's well-being over personal interests, seeking God's will in their choices.

Bible Reading – Exodus 5 (NIV)

Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.'"

² Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go."

³ Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword."

⁴ But the king of Egypt said, "Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!" ⁵ Then Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working."

⁶ That same day Pharaoh gave this order to the slave drivers and overseers in charge of the people: ⁷ "You are no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own straw. ⁸ But require them to make the same number of bricks as before; don't reduce the quota. They are lazy; that is why they are crying out, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.' ⁹ Make the work harder for the people so that they keep working and pay no attention to lies."

¹⁰ Then the slave drivers and the overseers went out and said to the people, "This is what Pharaoh says: 'I will not give you any more straw. ¹¹ Go and get your own straw wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced at all.'"¹² So the people scattered all over Egypt to gather stubble to use for straw. ¹³ The slave drivers kept pressing them, saying, "Complete the work required of you for each day, just as when you had straw." ¹⁴ And Pharaoh's slave drivers beat the Israelite overseers they had appointed, demanding, "Why haven't you met your quota of bricks yesterday or today, as before?"

¹⁵ Then the Israelite overseers went and appealed to Pharaoh: "Why have you treated your servants this way?" ¹⁶ Your servants are given no straw, yet we are told, 'Make bricks!' Your servants are being beaten, but the fault is with your own people."

¹⁷ Pharaoh said, "Lazy, that's what you are—lazy! That is why you keep saying, 'Let us go and sacrifice to the Lord.'"¹⁸ Now get to work. You will not be given any straw, yet you must produce your full quota of bricks."

¹⁹ The Israelite overseers realized they were in trouble when they were told, "You are not to reduce the number of bricks required of you for each day." ²⁰ When they left Pharaoh, they found Moses and Aaron waiting to meet them, ²¹ and they said, "May the Lord look on you and judge you! You have made us obnoxious to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us."

²² Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me?" ²³ Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and you have not rescued your people at all."

Song – May the Mind of Christ

1 May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
live in me from day to day,
by His love and pow'r controlling
all I do and say.

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 pow'r.

3 May the peace of God my Father
rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.

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

4 May the love of Jesus fill me
as the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing:
this is victory.

5 May I run the race before me,
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus
as I onward go.

6 May His beauty rest upon me
as I seek the lost to win,
and may they forget the channel,
seeing only Him.

Sermon – The Lord is... (Audric)

Refer to Youtube Link: <https://youtu.be/hUqCukb85p8>

Song – In Christ Alone

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Rg8VsHd7u4

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

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
'Til 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, I live

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

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

"Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.'

*"This is my name forever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation*

(Exodus 3:15)

Go forth in the power of the unchanging God, our Father.