

Sunday Service ~ June 8, 2025

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Prayer

Good morning and welcome to our Sunday service! It's a joy to come together as God's people—to seek Him, encourage one another, and be refreshed by His grace and truth. As we sing, pray, and hear from His Word, let's come with open hearts, ready to see how God is at work in us and among us today.

Prayer.

Gracious and Mighty God,
 You are the everlasting King, the Creator of all that is seen and unseen. Your wisdom is unsearchable, Your holiness incomparable, and Your mercy without end. You speak, and the heavens declare Your glory; You command, and all creation bows before You.
 Yet, Lord, we confess that we have strayed from Your ways. We have pursued fleeting desires and placed our trust in things that cannot save. Our hearts have been drawn to idols, and our lips have spoken words that dishonour Your name. We have neglected Your Word and resisted Your Spirit, choosing our own path instead of Yours.
 But You, O Lord, are abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. In Christ, You have shown us the fullness of Your grace taking our sin upon Yourself and clothing us in Your perfect righteousness. His cross is our salvation, His resurrection our living hope.
 So we adore You, triune God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Open our eyes to see Your glory, soften our hearts to respond in humble worship, and renew our spirits to walk in joyful obedience. May our lives reflect the wonder of Your mercy and the beauty of Your holiness.
 In the name of Jesus, we pray,
 Amen.

Song – Ye Servants of God

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptLLr_WjCz8

Verse 1

You servants of God, your Master proclaim,
 and publish abroad his wonderful name;
 the name all-victorious of Jesus extol;
 his kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

Verse 2

God rules in the height, almighty to save;
 though hid from our sight, his presence we have;
 the great congregation his triumph shall sing,
 ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

Verse 3

"Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!"
 let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;
 the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
 fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

Verse 4

Then let us adore and give him his right:
 all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
 all honor and blessing with angels above
 and thanks never ceasing for infinite love.

Bible Reading – Exodus 19 (NIV)

On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. ² After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

³ Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

⁷ So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the Lord had commanded him to speak. ⁸ The people all responded together, “We will do everything the Lord has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the Lord.

⁹ The Lord said to Moses, “I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you.” Then Moses told the Lord what the people had said.

¹⁰ And the Lord said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes ¹¹ and be ready by the third day, because on that day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹² Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, ‘Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death. ¹³ They are to be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on them. No person or animal shall be permitted to live.’ Only when the ram’s horn sounds a long blast may they approach the mountain.”

¹⁴ After Moses had gone down the mountain to the people, he consecrated them, and they washed their clothes. ¹⁵ Then he said to the people, “Prepare yourselves for the third day. Abstain from sexual relations.”

¹⁶ On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. ¹⁷ Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸ Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the Lord descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently. ¹⁹ As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.

²⁰ The Lord descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up ²¹ and the Lord said to him, “Go down and warn the people so they do not force their way through to see the Lord and many of them perish. ²² Even the priests, who approach the Lord, must consecrate themselves, or the Lord will break out against them.”

²³ Moses said to the Lord, “The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, because you yourself warned us, ‘Put limits around the mountain and set it apart as holy.’”

²⁴ The Lord replied, “Go down and bring Aaron up with you. But the priests and the people must not force their way through to come up to the Lord, or he will break out against them.”

²⁵ So Moses went down to the people and told them.

Announcements

Focus for Month: Worship. "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." (John 4:23-24). How can we worship God in spirit and in truth? In Spirit means with the deepest part of who we are. Not just our mouths or our hands but our whole being. We must worship the Lord with all we have. And in truth tells us that worship needs to conform to God's truth, that He gives us in his word. He has to tell us how we should worship Him, we don't make that up ourselves. So how does that work for you not just on a Sunday but all week – how can you worship the Lord in spirit and in truth?

Church Redevelopment. In the last week or two the Construction Working Group confronted a challenge – the plans for the roof for the new development needed some modifications to correctly attach to the old roof. The solution? Get a quote for a whole new colorbond roof! This will require extra money (but still within the redevelopment budget!) but seeing the old tiles were coming to the end of their life and the COM had talked about replacing them previously, this is an efficient and cost saving way of solving a long term problem. Thus, with the COM approval that's what we will do. Please keep praying that we don't come up with too many more problems!

Baptisms Coming Up. Tonight (8/6) Jackson Steele will be baptised at our Sunday @ 6 service and NEXT week (15/6) we will have the joy of baptising Reuben Nesbitt at our morning service. Please come along and support these joyous occasions.

Presbytery This week a minister and elder of each Presbyterian Church meet for their bi-monthly Presbytery meeting. At that meeting they deal with issues common to all local Presbyterian Churches, seek to pray and encourage each other in what ministry we are doing and to oversee the more difficult issues that our Churches are facing. Please pray for the Presbytery as they meet.

Pastoral Prayer

Pray for Bangladesh (Population 174 million, Christians, 1 million). 2025 has seen significant political turmoil in Bangladesh as violent riots led to the resignation of the prime minister and an increase in extremist attacks on Christians, especially converts. Please pray that God protects Christians in Bangladesh and brings healing to victims of attacks. Pray for those impacted by the 2024 cyclone to be restored and find hope as they recover. Pray for Bangladeshi believers who risk everything to be salt and light.

Pray for the Walaha Community. The Vanuatu President is visiting the Church on the 25th of June which will coincide with their church anniversary. 1. Pray for their working committee to prepare for this big day. 2. Pray for their work program on the water project (which is the current project that Charlestown mission team is working with them on). 3. Pray for unity within their church leaders and members.

Pray for the worlds displaced people. Did you know that the number of people who had been forcibly displaced from their homes by persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations rose from 76

million in December 2023 to 120 million in December 2024? Pray for a stable home and a hopeful future. For resolving of the issues that has caused their displacement. And compassion from those who have a good home towards those who lack a place to call home.

Pray for our Christian families. Thank the Lord for the Christian families we have in the Church. Pray for the parents (and grandparents) as they model Christian faith and repentance. Pray that kids might see and hear how the gospel works. Pray that we might lean on each other so help our families raise Christian kids in an increasing non-Christian environment.

Bible Reading – Exodus 20 (NIV)

And God spoke all these words:

² "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³ "You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³ "You shall not murder.

¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

¹⁶ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

¹⁸ When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance¹⁹ and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die."

²⁰ Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."

²¹ The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

Idols and Altars

²² Then the Lord said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites this: 'You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven: ²³ Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold.'

²⁴ "'Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you. ²⁵ If you make an altar of stones for me, do not build it with dressed stones, for you will defile it if you use a tool on it. ²⁶ And do not go up to my altar on steps, or your private parts may be exposed.'

Song – In Christ Alone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rn9-UNer6MQ>

Verse 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

Verse 2

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

Verse 3

'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

Verse 4

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

Verse 5

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

Sermon – Saved into Testing (Audric)

Refer to Youtube Link

Song – When I survey

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZRRnNX_j5k&themeRefresh=1

Verse 1

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Verse 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

Verse 3

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Verse 4

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Benediction

May the God of the new covenant, who has said, "I will be their God, and they shall be my people," write His laws on your minds and place them deep within your hearts. As you go, may you walk in joyful obedience, resting in the grace of Christ, upheld by the Spirit, and assured that you belong to the Lord who knows you and loves you. Amen.