

# Sunday Service ~ March 23, 2025

## Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

### Welcome & Prayer

*Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. <sup>2</sup> Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. <sup>3</sup> For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. <sup>4</sup> In his hand are the depths of the earth & the mountain peaks belong to him. <sup>5</sup> The sea is his, for he made it & his hands formed the dry land. <sup>6</sup> Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; <sup>7</sup> for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.*

Let's Pray. Sovereign Lord, what a great privilege it is to come into your presence this morning. To be able to sing to the rock of our salvation. To be able to come before you in thanksgiving and to praise you with music and song. To be able to humble ourselves in worship, to pray to our maker & to place ourselves under your sovereign care.

We admit that we don't come to you often enough, and we don't thank you enough, nor are we humble enough, dependent enough, passionate enough. Please forgive us. Forgive us because for everything we have done wrong, whether we have done or said or acted in the wrong way or failed to do, say or act in the right way, that wrongdoing meant that your Son Jesus had to die on the cross to forgive us that sin. So, we thank you for Jesus. May he become more and more real to us today as we sing, listen, pray, reflect and commit this time to you now. And we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

### Song – How Great Thou Art

[How Great Thou Art with lyrics performed by Chris rice - YouTube](#)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Oh Lord, my God<br/>When I, in awesome wonder<br/>Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made<br/>I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder<br/>Thy power throughout the universe displayed</p> <p>Chorus<br/>Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee<br/>How great Thou art, how great Thou art<br/>Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee<br/>How great Thou art, how great Thou art</p> | <p>2. And when I think that God, His Son not sparing<br/>Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in<br/>That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing<br/>He bled and died to take away my sin</p> <p>Chorus<br/>3. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation<br/>And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart<br/>Then I shall bow, in humble adoration<br/>And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art</p> <p>Chorus</p> |
|---|--|

### Bible Reading – Matthew 11:25 – 12:8 (NIV)

*25 At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. 26 Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. 27 "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." 12 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. 2 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath." 3 He answered, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? 4 He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. 5 Or haven't you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate*

*the Sabbath and yet are innocent? 6 I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. 7 If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent. 8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."*

## Announcements

**Focus for Month: Love for one another.** *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."* To grow in love for God and for others comes from the work of the Holy Spirit within you. You can't make yourself love others more. Instead, we must open ourselves up to what God is doing within us and allow him to change our heart, our mind and our actions and make them all more loving.

**Turn the tide:** NEXT Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2-4:30pm. Newcastle City Church. Easy access to Porn has had a devastating impact on many lives. Even an occasional casual look at porn affects the way we think about others and the way we expect others will think about us. Come along to this seminar to be better informed and to see how we as a Church can do something positive for others (and maybe even ourselves!) Run by Outgrow ministries on behalf of the Newcastle Presbyterian Churches

**Charlestown Redevelopment.** Last Sunday our congregational meetings at both Swansea and Charlestown were a good time to discuss the proposed redevelopment and to obtain support for an increased budget (now \$1.52 million) and an increased borrowings (now \$250,000 from the Trustees and up to \$270,000 from Swansea Presbyterian). Many thanks to all those who are working hard for this to come about.

### Charlestown Changes.

- This means that our last Sunday at the Church looks like being Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March.
- We then hope to have a Working Bee to prepare the site for redevelopment on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April from 8am. There will be lots and lots of work to do from moving fruit trees to clearing the Church to making a gravel path next to the office. We will need help from all sorts of people with all sorts of abilities. Please come if you are able to.
- We expect the first Sunday at Charlestown Public will be Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April.
- After this date bible Studies, Junior Youth, IMPACT youth, and SPARKLERS playgroup will all need to change where they meet and how they meet.

**Annual Congregational Meeting.** Please note the annual meeting for our Church will be on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March from 11:20am at the Charlestown Church. The agenda and reports will be sent to you by email (or available to pick up) TODAY.

### New City Catechism: Question 12. What does God require in the ninth and tenth commandments?

Ninth, that we do not lie or deceive, but speak the truth in love. Tenth, that we are content, not envying anyone or resenting what God has given them or us. Scripture: If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing well. (James 2:8)

## Pastoral Prayer

**Pray for Saudi Arabia** (Population 37 million, Christians, 2 million). The church in the Arabian peninsula is an emerging church. The holy spirit is drawing people to Jesus as they have seen that Islam doesn't work." (Saudi believer) Please pray that believers will find a place to worship and grow in knowledge of the Lord. For immigrant Christians who meet secretly to receive God's protection and wisdom. For God to bless all those who reach out to share the gospel in Saudi Arabia.

**Pray for the Webbs (CMS, on home assignment from Broome)** Prayer for Ezra, Daniel and Emily to adjust to schooling here in Sydney as missing friends in Broome. Thanks for opportunity for Chris/Karen to reflect on their time in Broome Pray they may return to Broome ready to serve joyfully and effectively in June.

**Praise God for the Paint n Sip women's event last weekend.** Thank God for three non- Christians who came. Pray that the Lord will work in their lives. Praise for a good time of fellowship and encouragement (across all three of our services) that happened on the day.

**Pray for a way to find peace in the many hot spots throughout the world –** Ukraine, Gaza, Nigeria, Syria, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Sudan, Chad and many other nations throughout the world.

## Bible Reading – Matthew 12:9-21 (NIV)

*9 Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, 10 and a man with a shrivelled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" 11 He said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? 12 How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." 13 Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So, he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. 14 But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus. 15 Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill. 16 He warned them not to tell others about him. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:*

*18 "Here is my servant whom I have chosen,  
the one I love, in whom I delight;*

*I will put my Spirit on him,  
and he will proclaim justice to the nations.*

*19 He will not quarrel or cry out;  
no one will hear his voice in the streets.*

*20 A bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out,  
till he has brought justice through to victory.*

*21 In his name the nations will put their hope."*

## Song – Yet not I but Christ in me

[CityAlight ~ Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me \(Lyrics\) - YouTube](#)

1. What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer  
There is no more for heaven now to give  
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom  
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace  
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus  
For my life is wholly bound to His  
Oh how strange and divine,  
I can sing, "All is mine"  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

3. No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven  
The future sure, the price it has been paid  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon  
And He was raised to overthrow the grave  
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated  
Jesus now and ever is my plea  
Oh the chains are released,  
I can sing, "I am free"  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken  
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay  
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing  
For in my need, His power is displayed  
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me  
Through the deepest valley He will lead  
Oh the night has been won,  
and I shall overcome  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus  
For He has said that He will bring me home  
And day by day I know He will renew me  
Until I stand with joy before the throne  
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus  
All the glory evermore to Him  
When the race is complete,  
still my lips shall repeat  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

## Sermon – REST (Stephen T)

Video link: <https://youtu.be/4h3r10S3ock>

What do you do when you find yourself tired and rundown? Do you grab a beer and sit down in front of the TV to watch a sporting event? Or do you grab a cup of tea and sit down to have a chat with one of your best friends? Or do you grab your phone and lie on your bed as you scroll through your social media account? Or do you reach for a pill or cancel all your engagements or take it easy for the rest of the weekend?

Slide 2

The truth is that we are all tired and weary, at times. It might be because we are growing older and still trying to fit lots of things into our day. Or it might be that the pace of our lives and the responsibilities we face grow all the time and eventually they become out of control.

Slide 3

Well in our passage today we see Jesus' solution to one of our greatest problems. *"Come to me, all you who are **weary and burdened**, and I will give you **rest**. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find **rest** for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

They are some of the greatest words ever spoken. Friends with all that junk that you have on your back, has the perfect girl or guy brought you rest? Has your job taken those burdens away from you? Has money solved those problems? Has education made all the difference? Have the things that you have bought – your big screen TV, your mobile phone, your last holiday, that comfort food really removed your burdens? No. But Jesus promises to do so.

### 1. He will give you REST (Verses 25-30)

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give **you rest**."* It is not what you do or don't do that will give you rest, peace, fulfilment in life. Your weariness & troubles will not disappear if you come to Church or confess to a priest or get married or receive a pay rise from work. It only happens when we come to Jesus. Trust in Jesus. Believe in Jesus.

And that's for all of us. It's not just for the Jew but the Gentile. Not just for the men but the women. Not just the old but the young. Not just those who have got it all together but also those who have completely mucked everything up. The invitation is for all – the tired, the weary, the poor, the sinner, the sick, the sad, the ones that life has chewed up and spat out.

But, "Come," involves leaving where you are. "Come," involves not trusting in the same old things you always have trusted. "Come," involves giving up control. "Come," involves being empty-handed. And so, if you come to Jesus, there and only there, will you find rest. And of course you will also find Jesus as well. Not only does he give us rest but he gives us himself. Union with Christ. Intimacy with God the Son. For flowing from him is the rest we need.

*29 "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* Wait a second if we are weary and burdened why would we want to put a yoke over our shoulders? Don't we want freedom from our baggage, rather than another layer of restrictions? Today we are taught that life is about doing what we want to do, throwing off the expectations of others. But that recipe hasn't made us any happier. Instead, it placed even greater burdens on us.

Slide 4

But if we place ourselves under God's yoke, then the one who made us knows what we were capable of handling. And so, he won't give us more than what we can cope with. Besides the yoke ties us to another. For just as the yoke tied one beast to another so that they could plough the fields together, so we are now tied to, yoked to, Jesus himself. Which means he is with us in everything. He is the one who takes the lions share of the load & he leaves us with what we can handle and he gives us the strength to be able to handle it.

Slide 5

I remember as a scout going on a weekend hike where we were all carrying our own backpacks for the whole weekend. And as you can imagine there were strict instructions about what we should take for the camp and what to leave at home. But one young boy seemed to have a bigger backpack than anyone else. And a few hours into the first day he was struggling and couldn't go any further. So, one of the leaders took the boys backpack as well as his own and, in his place, gave him a day pack which he could cope with fine.

That's the picture we have here. A yoke that is easy. A burden that is light. A humble and gentle leader willing to walk alongside the young lad the whole way. But I must admit the leader was a bit annoyed when later on that night, the young boy was passing out hard cover comic books to everyone for entertainment from his bulging backpack!

Slide 6

Jesus offers us his yoke because there's still work to be done. He doesn't say take my chair or lie down on my mattress. It not about ease. Rest is not about doing nothing. Actually, elsewhere Jesus says "take up my cross." Coming to Jesus is not putting your feet up. Its not living in the land of leisure. It's the rest that you are now working just for God. Doing what God made you to do. Living the life that will enable you to mature and flourish in your faith.

The Christian life is not about what you and I can do for the kingdom. It's not about doing God's work our way either. Its handing over to him our struggles with sin. Its asking for his help when temptations and suffering comes our way. Its relying on His Spirit as we face the challenges of life put before us. Its resting in the faithful one not just striving to live by faith.

But before you come to Jesus you must have confidence in Him. You wouldn't put your trust in a friend without knowing their trustworthiness. You wouldn't commit yourself to marry someone unless you knew well the person you were marrying. So, who is this Jesus?

Slide 7

*25 "At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. 26 Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. 27 "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."*

Jesus is the one whom the father has revealed his will to. Jesus is the one that knows the father intimately, personally. He is the one, the only one who can tell us truthfully about what the father is like but he can also take us to the father. This Jesus is "THE way, THE truth and THE life. No one gets to the father except through Him."

God is the one who made the world and yet on the seventh day he rested. This God is both the author of work and rest. So, Jesus, the only one to have this special relationship with the Father is the only one who can lead us to this type of rest. Because it takes God to know God

Slide 8

When the holy man, Mahatma Gandhi was dying, one of his friends asked him 'You have been looking for God all your life. Have you found him yet?' "No' was his answer 'I'm still looking.' But friends we don't

need to look any further than Jesus. The one who knows the father perfectly. The one who is gentle and lowly in heart.

Friends Jesus offers us what we desperately need but are unable to receive apart from Him. He offers you peace with God. He offers you peace from God. He offers rest for the weary and the heavy laden. So don't look for it in alcohol, in love, in sex, in sport, in creature comforts or in Church. Its not there. Its with Jesus. He is calling us today to come to him.

Slide 9

## 2. Rest and (secondly) RESToration (12:1-14)

Because I think that it is really fascinating that Matthew recounts immediately after Jesus words an incident that highlights the Sabbath. 1 *"At that time Jesus went through the grainfields **on the Sabbath.**"* The Sabbath was God's provision of rest for his people, wasn't it? Wasn't the whole point of the Sabbath, according to the fourth commandment, that Gods people should rest on the seventh day like God rested on the seventh day in Genesis 1?

In fact, the word Sabbath means rest in Hebrew. It was a time when you rested from your labours, restored your energy levels and connected again to God in worship. For the two key Sabbath concepts were rest and worship. Stop and plug yourself into the power point that contains the ultimate power source. Recharge your faith, recharge your batteries so that you can go back and live as the people of God.

But the people of God had failed to turn the button off. They hadn't ensured that the Sabbath was a special day. And the book of 2 Chronicles 36:21 says that one of the reasons that the Jews went into exile towards the end of the OT period was so the land could finally enjoy its sabbath rest. Because the Jews had been so lax in their sabbath keeping.

And you see the Pharisees don't want that to happen again. So, they added law after law to God's law to make sure there would be no more work ever done on the sabbath. Which is why they got so upset with Jesus. *"His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. 2 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath."*

Now when the Pharisees say that picking grain on the Sabbath was unlawful, they weren't saying it was breaking the OT law but the rabbinical law. As I said the rabbis was super careful to go no where near working on the Sabbath that even picking a few grains of wheat, rolling it in your hand and eating it was considered Sabbath breaking work.

Slide 10

That's the problem with legalism. You work so hard to protect someone from breaking the law that the extra rules and regulations you place around it become so hard and fast that they become as important as the law itself. And that placed incredible burdens on people. There were now hundreds of rules that the rabbis had made up that you had to follow on the Sabbath. Which meant that day lost its restfulness. And these rules tied people up in knots and added burdens to a day that was meant to celebrate the freedoms that God had given them.

And some of you know what I mean. Many of you have told me of the rules and regulations you had growing up about what you could do and couldn't do on the Sabbath. And with the Sabbath police watching your every move there was no freedom and joy on that day instead there was very little you could do other than go to church and read your Bible.

I heard the story this week about a guy who went to Church and was full of worship and encouragement after a wonderful church service. He was so energized by the worship and by the singing that he started

whistling one of his favourite Christian tunes. Until one of the elders put his hand on his shoulder and said “Son, the Lord’s Day is no’a day for whistling.”

Slide 11

But Jesus pushed back on the Pharisees. He says I wonder what the Bible says on this topic? 3 *“He answered, ‘Haven’t you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? 4 He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests.’”*

David ate the consecrated bread because it was an emergency. His troops were starving. And human needs take precedence over Sabbath instructions. The law is about loving God and loving your neighbour. So don’t use your ceremonial laws as an excuse not to show love to others. That’s what you are doing when you are following your own rules rather than caring for the needs of the people around you who are hungry.

Now I am someone who still feels the Christian Sabbath needs to remain special. I choose not to shop on a Sunday but when someone comes to the Church and asks for help, I will go down to the service station and buy petrol or down to Woolworth and buy them food. Because loving your neighbour is at the very heart of all of God’s laws.

Slide 12

5 *“Or haven’t you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath & yet are innocent? 6 I tell you that something greater than the temple is here.”*

The priests worked on the sabbath, they offered sacrifices and conducted worship and taught from the scriptures and served their people all on the Sabbath. But the whole point of the Sabbath was this sort of worship, so someone had to do something. And Jesus is saying don’t use religious observance as an excuse not to love your neighbour. Isn’t that what happened in the parable of the good Samaritan – the priest and the Levite passed by on the other side of the road. They put religious regulations over compassion. Law over love.

Slide 13

7 *“If you had known what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent. 8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”*

Sabbath is about mercy. Sabbath is about healing. Sabbath is about rest. Sabbath is about restoration. Which is why despite the obvious trap that the Pharisees were setting Jesus then goes and heals the man with the shrivelled hand on the Sabbath. Yes, he knew this would turn the religious leaders against him but Jesus was a man of love, of compassion, of mercy. And what better day to show love than the day God called his people to stop work and learn to love him more. What better day to show mercy than the day that was set aside to remember God’s wonderful acts of salvation and mercy?

Slide 14

Besides, *“If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? 12 How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”*

This is a day to do good. This is a day to rest and be restored in body, soul and mind. Yes, Jesus could have waited until the next day to heal this man, by why wait? The one who is greater than King David is here. The one that the temple and the priesthood was pointing to is now here. Its Jesus. You see he is the Lord of the Sabbath. The one that the Sabbath pointed to. Rest is found not in a day but a person. So come to him and enjoy him. On a Saturday or a Sunday, actually on every day!

Slide 15

One of the greatest movies of all time is Chariots of Fire, where Eric Lidell refused to run on a Sunday because he didn't want to break the Sabbath. That's legalism, isn't it? No, no, he wanted to prioritise Jesus on that day. Rest in him and worship Him. But did you know that years later Lidell was a missionary in China & one day the kids were mucking up because the Church over there had rules that they couldn't do anything on a Sunday. So, he organised games for them, including running races. Because the Sabbath was not made for man but man for the Sabbath & the Lord of the Sabbath wants to give his people rest and restoration

Slide 16

### 3. Because Jesus is the Restorer. (verses 15-21)

*"Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him & he healed all who were ill. 16 He warned them not to tell others about him. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: 18 "Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him & he will proclaim justice to the nations."*

Jesus withdraws because he can see the storm coming. The Pharisees want to kill him, so it would be better to spend the time with his disciples preparing them for the future. But the crowds keep following him and he keeps giving them rest from their troubles and restoration from their illnesses. But he doesn't poke the bear by making a big song and dance about things. Instead, he tells everyone to keep quiet.

Slide 17

Because Jesus is the RESTorer of all things. And he will do it as a suffering servant, not a macho, sword wielding Messiah. He wants to bring in justice, not just to the Jews but to the nations. 19 *"He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. 20 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through to victory. 21 In his name the nations will put their hope."*

Jesus will use words not swords. He will serve the weak not himself. He will show humility and gentleness and compassion. And he wants all of those things to reach the ends of the earth. For that's how God works. That how the restorer of all things will conduct himself. Because he wants to give rest for the weary. Mercy for the sinner. And hope for the hurting. That's how the OT wanted God's salvation to happen. That is why all the pictures that were painted in the OT were pointing to someone like Jesus.

And friends that is why there is no room in the Church for legalism. That is why we don't judge one another about what they do or don't do on the Sabbath. That's why Sundays is about finding rest in Jesus, not filling your day with committee work and Church functions. That is why worship needs to be our top priority not just on Sunday but every day. That is why we should be people who love others, who are full of compassion, who are gentle and lowly ourselves. Because as we have come to Jesus, as we rest in Jesus. As we enjoy Jesus, his values rub off on our values. And his character begins bit by bit to change our character.

Slide 18

I am going to end this sermon with a rather long quote from Dane Outland's excellent short book called *"Gentle and Lowly."* It was one of Jon Brown's favourite books and I think he gave it out to about 40 people while he was ministering amongst us, so you might already be familiar with this quote, that appears in the first few pages of the book. It goes like this..

"My dad pointed out to me something that Charles Spurgeon pointed out to him. In the four gospel accounts given to us in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – eighty-nine chapters of biblical text – there's only one place where Jesus tells us about his own heart....



*"Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, **for I am gentle and lowly in heart** and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

In the one place in the Bible where the Son of God pulls back the veil and lets us peer way down into the core of who he is, we are not told that he is "austere and demanding in heart". We are not told that he is "exalted and dignified in heart." We are not even told that he is "joyful and generous in heart." Letting Jesus set the terms, his surprising claim is that he "gentle and lowly in heart." ...

Our heart is what defines and directs us. That is why Solomon tells us to *"Keep the heart with all vigilance, for from it flows the springs of life"* (Prov 4:23). The heart is a matter of life. It is what makes us the human being each of us is. The heart drives all we do. It is who we are. And when Jesus tells us what animates him most deeply, what is most true of him – when he exposes the innermost recesses of his being – what we find there is: gentle & lowly.

Gentle and lowly. This according to his own testimony is Christ's very heart. This is who he is. Tender. Open. Welcoming. Accommodating. Understanding. Willing. If we are asked to say only one thing about who Jesus is, we would be honouring Jesus own teaching if our answer is, "gentle and lowly". If Jesus hosted his own personal website, the most prominent line of the "About Me" drop down would read: GENTLE AND LOWLY IN HEART"

Slide 19

Friends, this gentle and lowly one says "Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden & I will give you rest." This Jesus says you are worth more than sheep to him. This Jesus has come to give hope to the hurting. This Jesus has spoken to us this morning. Now how are you going to respond to someone whose heart has been exposed in such a tender way? We will come to him, wont we? Rest in him. Be restored by him & enjoy being with him forever.

## Song – Cling to Christ [Cling to Christ • Official Lyric Video on Vimeo](#)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Father, I can come to You<br/>And boast of deeds I've done<br/>In my pride I strive to earn<br/>The favour Christ has won<br/>He alone pleads my acceptance<br/>All my works aside<br/>So I come with empty hands<br/>And I cling to Christ</p>   | <p>Chorus<br/>It's more than I can do<br/>It's more than I can do<br/>To keep my hold on You<br/>But all my hope and peace<br/>Is that You cling to me</p>   |
| <p>2. Father, I can go astray<br/>And battle needless fears<br/>Voices tell me I'm condemned<br/>And that I can't draw near<br/>But Your Spirit calls me homeward<br/>With Your words of life<br/>Jesus bore my every sin<br/>So, I cling to Christ</p> | <p>3. Father, all my earthly aims<br/>In time will turn to dust<br/>Let me learn that loss is gain<br/>For those who know Your love<br/>All the treasures of this world<br/>Will never satisfy<br/>You alone are endless joy<br/>So, I cling to Christ</p> |

## Benediction

---

*"Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, **for I am gentle and lowly in heart** and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. " (Matthew 12: 28)*