

**Sunday October 18, 2020**

## **Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church**

### **Welcome & Prayer**

*"If the LORD had not been on our side—<sup>2</sup> let Israel say—<sup>2</sup> if the LORD had not been on our side when people attacked us, <sup>3</sup> they would have swallowed us alive when their anger flared against us; <sup>4</sup> the flood would have engulfed us the torrent would have swept over us, <sup>5</sup> the raging waters would have swept us away. <sup>6</sup> Praise be to the LORD, who has not let us be torn by their teeth. <sup>7</sup> We have escaped like a bird from the fowler's snare; the snare has been broken, and we have escaped. <sup>8</sup> Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth."*

Let us pray. Dear Lord and Father of mankind thank you that we can come to you for help in our time of need. We come this morning to praise you for your power and for your passion, your sovereignty and your sincerity, your faithfulness and your fellowship, your control and your care.

Where else can we go to for help? Who else is able to save us from our sin? From ourselves? From our world? From all that is around us? But you. You alone are worthy of our worship. You alone are the one we want to live for. You alone are the one whom we can trust.

So we turn away from all other distractions and come to you. We place our sins before you and ask for forgiveness. We offer ourselves to you as living sacrifices, wholly & pleasing to you and you alone. May this be our spiritual act of worship this day & may you again become our God, our father and our friend. Amen.

**Song – Psalm 96** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mudGglaGnqs>

**Song – O for a thousand tongues**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2e475ww32Jq>

### **Bible Reading – Micah 3:1-12 (NIV)**

*Then I said, 'Listen, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of Israel. Should you not embrace justice, <sup>2</sup> you who hate good and love evil; who tear the skin from my people and the flesh from their bones; <sup>3</sup> who eat my people's flesh, strip off their skin and break their bones in pieces; who chop them up like meat for the pan, like flesh for the pot.' <sup>4</sup> Then they will cry out to the LORD, but he will not answer them. At that time he will hide his face from them because of the evil they have done.*

*<sup>5</sup> This is what the LORD says: 'As for the prophets who lead my people astray, they proclaim "peace" if they have something to eat, but prepare to wage war against anyone who refuses to feed them. <sup>6</sup> Therefore night will come over you, without visions, and darkness, without divination. The sun will set for the prophets, and the day will go dark for them. <sup>7</sup> The seers will be ashamed and the diviners disgraced. They will all cover their faces because there is no answer from God.' <sup>8</sup> But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression, to Israel his sin.*

*<sup>9</sup> Hear this, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of Israel, who despise justice and distort all that is right; <sup>10</sup> who build Zion with bloodshed, and Jerusalem with wickedness. <sup>11</sup> Her leaders judge for a bribe, her priests teach for a price, and her prophets tell fortunes for money. Yet they look for the LORD's support and say, 'Is not the LORD among us? No disaster will come upon us.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore because of you, Zion will be ploughed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.*

## Announcements – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020

- **Church Services this term.** In term 4 we are going to put the toe in the water and try morning teas and suppers after Church. So please stay around after Church, even if you don't normally stay around. It is so important that we continue to build many of the relationships that have been on pause for most of the year.
- **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.
- **Operation Christmas Child.** Have you picked up a box yet? Have you packed your box yet? You have until NEXT Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October to return them to our Church so they can be sent overseas. See Kathryn for any more details.
- **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 – Training.** There are many things we can't do at this point in time but one thing we can do is to improve ourselves and our skills. To this end why not read a book on an aspect of ministry you are interested in Or watch a podcast OR ring up someone who has gifts in this area and talk to them about how to better serve others. And then put it into practices! We are in need of extra help in almost all aspects of the church services but we also need people to start and involve themselves in new initiatives.
- **Training Event.** Sunday October 25 from 3-5pm via ZOOM or live at Church we will be having time to grow our skills (and grow the pool of people willing to use their skills) in all aspect of service. So if you are currently on the rosters or are thinking of giving something a go please come to one of the following times

	Church	ZOOM/Church Hall
3-3:30pm	Computer/EW (Mike P/Peter B)	
3:30-4:00pm	Sound (Peter B/Jon B)	Bible Reading/Prayer (Stephen T)
4:00-4:30pm	Sound (cont)	Leading (Stephen T)
4:30-5pm	Music (Jo B)	Welcoming (Stephen T/Simon M)

For more information just contact Stephen

- **Bible Talks.** Would you like to think through how better to do a better Bible Talk? Come along Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 3-5pm and we will talk about the basics of putting together a bible talk and work our way through a practical example or two. This would be an ideal way for anyone (male or female, young or old) to think through the skills needed to communicate the Bible in this way. See Stephen for more information.

**Kids Talk – Quizworx.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHZ3dirIHdo>

**Song – Undivided** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9DaoRBUSL\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9DaoRBUSL_w)

## Prayer Points for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Pray for Nepal (Population 30 million, Christians 1.3 million).** Persecution stems mainly from Hindu extremists who are seeking to make Nepal a Hindu state, with ethnic tensions adding to the pressure. Threats have forced some Christians to flee their homes and villages. Extremists have attacked believers and even bombed churches. Authorities do little to stop threats and attacks against Christians. Converts from Hinduism are put under the most pressure as they are viewed as dishonouring the faith of their

ancestors. They experience pressure from their family, friends, community and local authorities to return to their former faith.

**COVID-19.** Pray for all governments as they balance the health needs of the population with the economic and social needs.

**Pray for our HSC Students – Caleb G, Juliette Mc, Luke W, Emma B, Jannah P & Tom W**

**Pray for our Women's Ministry Committee as they make plans for the Ginger Bread House night.** That it will be a creative way of doing such an event and yet still having opportunities to share the gospel while making these houses.

**Pray for the Webbs (Broome).** Praise God for 5 or 6 indigenous men who every Monday morning meet in the middle of an oval in Broome where Aboriginal people often meet. Thank God that God is giving them boldness and creativity in sharing their faith. Pray for the people who drop in each week for chat. Pray that one day one of them might stay and meet Jesus.

## Bible Reading – Micah 4:1-13 (NIV)

*4 In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. <sup>2</sup> Many nations will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.' The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plough shares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more. <sup>4</sup> Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig-tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken. <sup>5</sup> All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.*

*<sup>6</sup> 'In that day,' declares the LORD, 'I will gather the lame; I will assemble the exiles & those I have brought to grief. <sup>7</sup> I will make the lame my remnant, those driven away a strong nation. The LORD will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day & for ever. <sup>8</sup> As for you watchtower of the flock, stronghold of Daughter Zion, the former dominion will be restored to you; kingship will come to Daughter Jerusalem.'*

*<sup>9</sup> Why do you now cry aloud – have you no king? Has your ruler perished, that pain seizes you like that of a woman in labour? <sup>10</sup> Writhe in agony, Daughter Zion, like a woman in labour, for now you must leave the city to camp in the open field. You will go to Babylon; there you will be rescued. There the LORD will redeem you out of the hand of your enemies. <sup>11</sup> But now many nations are gathered against you. They say, 'Let her be defiled, let our eyes gloat over Zion!' <sup>12</sup> But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD; they do not understand his plan, that he has gathered them like sheaves to the threshing-floor. <sup>13</sup> 'Rise and thresh, Daughter Zion, for I will give you horns of iron; I will give you hooves of bronze, and you will break to pieces many nations.' You will devote their ill-gotten gains to the LORD, their wealth to the Lord of all the earth.*

## Sermon – Power!

<https://youtu.be/wiUuKU9Hjkk>

I was really taken by what Jo said a couple of weeks ago about herd immunity. She was talking to us about vaccines and she said that the concept of herd immunity was that the strong were to protect the weak. That those who are able to take a vaccine should take it out of love for those who can't so that they can protect both themselves and those who are unable to protect themselves. It was a great challenge to me. What am I doing to protect the weak? To encourage the stumbling? To help those who are not coping on their own?

Slide 2

And in today's passage from Micah 3 we see that those who were leading the nation, were not concerned about herd immunity but only for his or her immunity. Whereas they should have been protecting the weak under their care instead they were using them for their own means. They were protecting

themselves. And that isn't good enough, says the Lord. You have a responsibility to others. You are not just here to feather your own nest.

Slide 3

So Micah starts a new section, verse 1 "Then I said, 'Listen!'" Put down your phone, power off your computer, click off your TV, listen. And in chapter 3 he highlights three types of people who have been given power and how they should be using that power to protect the people underneath them but instead they are using their power to feather their own nest.

### 1. And it begins with POLITICIANS (3:1-4)

*"Then I said, 'Listen, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of Israel. Should you not embrace justice, <sup>2</sup> you who hate good and love evil; who tear the skin from my people and the flesh from their bones; <sup>3</sup> who eat my people's flesh, strip off their skin and break their bones in pieces; who chop them up like meat for the pan, like flesh for the pot.'*

These leaders of God's people, these shepherds of God's flock are not embracing justice they have become butchers and cannibals. Instead of protecting those given to them, instead of giving justice to the people of God they are fleecing them. They are not using their power to serve but to be on the take! They are attacking the flock, skinning them alive and making stew out of them!

So who would be doing that to God's people? Their leaders, the politicians in the kings court, the magistrates chosen to keep the leader's honest, the police that enforce the laws of the land. They are all corrupt. They only care for themselves. So there is not just sin going on here, there is structural sin. For years, decades even, people have hated good & loved evil. They have got everything upside down. And so there is not justice for the common person and there is no care for the widows & orphans, it is just every man for themselves.

Now what is going on in ancient Israel can still be seen throughout our world. Where money determines whether you win or lose in court, where police behaviour is different whether you are black or white, where Mafia style underworlds operate untouched by the law, where laws favour the rich rather than the poor. And here we see that God is not pleased.

Actually he is livid! And in this case he is determined to bring to this situation true justice.

Slide 4

*<sup>4</sup>"Then they will cry out to the LORD, but he will not answer them. At that time he will hide his face from them because of the evil they have done."* In the past those with the power removed themselves from the pleas of the people and were silent to their cries for help. Well now God will do the exact same thing to them. God will not answer the cries of the leaders. He will hide his face when they want him to do something for them.

Slide 5

In the words of John Calvin, *"Micah confronts us here with the greatest evil that could ever befall us, that is that God rejects those who reject him and that God refuses to answer them, so that all their prayers are in vain and are no longer received by God."* For the Lord is a God of justice. He has given power to the politicians and the police and the court system and if they abuse that power then they will feel the full force of the law, the law of God! But amongst God's people God has factored in another check and balance, the prophets.

Slide 6

### 2. The Preachers (3:5-12)

God will give them the words to warn those unjust leaders, to shine a light in the darkness, to unleash the power of the preached word of God onto society as a whole. Yeah? Nah! Unfortunately the politicians are greedy and the preachers are gluttonous! *<sup>5</sup>"This is what the LORD says: 'As for the prophets who lead my*

*people astray, they proclaim "peace" if they have something to eat, but prepare to wage war against anyone who refuses to feed them."*

Slide 7

No the religious leaders are no better. They should be on the forefront exposing error, calling the political leaders to account for what they are doing. Being the investigating journalists, the political cartoonists, the poets and the songwriters all in one. But they are not doing their job. For they are too busy with their own hand outs. They too are on the take. And so if you pay them the right fee, they will give you the message you want to hear. And if you don't, they will pour down the judgement of God onto you!

Slide 8

So Micah turns his attention onto his peers & tells them they too will get what they deserve. <sup>6</sup>*"Therefore night will come over you, without visions, and darkness, without divination. The sun will set for the prophets & the day will go dark for them. <sup>7</sup>The seers will be ashamed and the diviners disgraced. They will all cover their faces because there is no answer from God."* Instead of getting visions, they will get silence. Instead of light, they will remain in darkness. Their crystal balls will remain black. Their prophetic gifts will be taken away.

Slide 9

They were given the power of the word of God in order to bring justice, to allow the light of God's word to chase away the darkness of the evil of men. And so God brings in a whistle blower from outside the establishment. *"But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice & might, to declare to Jacob his transgression, to Israel his sin."*

The Lord will give this preacher, Micah, the power of the Spirit of God, the one that hovered over the waters before the creation of the world. Micah will not preach a message of peace, peace where there is no peace but one of justice & might. God is just. God is powerful and he will bring the full force of justice onto those who continue to remain in their sin.

Slide 10

Stop playing the game, the Price is Right. All of you. <sup>9</sup>*"Hear this, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of Israel, who despise justice and distort all that is right; <sup>10</sup>who build Zion with blood shed, and Jerusalem with wickedness. <sup>11</sup>Her leader's judge for a bribe, her priests teach for a price, and her prophets tell fortunes for money. <sup>11</sup>Yet they look for the LORD's support & say, 'Is not the LORD among us? No disaster will come upon us.' <sup>12</sup>Therefore because of you, Zion will be ploughed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets."*

Slide 12

The Lord can't be used as an insurance policy. Where we do what we want and then when you need his help, you demand that he come and help you. You can't expect that God will always bless America. You can't be so sure that because Australia was a Christian nation that God will always come to our aid. No if we make our beds, we will have to lie in them. If we misuse the power given to us, if the strong haven't used that power to help the weak well one day they will be the weak ones & there will be nowhere to hide when judgement comes

Slide 13

### 3. Prince

But interestingly enough, that isn't what actually happened. Well let me put it another way, the fulfilment of this prophecy didn't turn out exactly how we would expect it to turn out. You see Micah preached this message during the reign of King Hezekiah & on the horizon at this time was the nation of Assyria. So around this time Assyria swoops down from the north & attacks the northern kingdom of God's people, Israel & its capital Samaria is decimated. It becomes a heap of rubble and from then on it is like a mound overgrown with thickets.

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And Assyria then turns its eyes upon Judah, the southern kingdom and there seems nothing is going to stop them. Even God's word makes them unbackable favourites when these two combatants meet. But

according to Jeremiah 26, written a hundred years later, when Jeremiah preached a similar message, *"Some of the elders of the land stepped forward and said to the entire assembly of people, <sup>18</sup> 'Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah. He told all the people of Judah, "This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Zion will be ploughed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets." <sup>19</sup> 'Did Hezekiah king of Judah or anyone else in Judah put him to death? **Did not Hezekiah fear the LORD and seek his favour?** And did not the Lord relent, so that he did not bring the disaster he pronounced against them?"*

You get what happened? Hezekiah fears God. He responds to the word of the Lord and so God sends an angel of death to defend his people from Assyria, the super power of the day. That's the power of the word of God it can change the fate of a nation! It can avert a national tragedy. And in this case it transfers God's judgement away from the people of Micah's time & gives it instead to a man who in the future represents all the people of God.

Slide 15

Because I find it fascinating that the one who according to Luke 4 says *"the Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free and to proclaim the year of the Lords' favour."* This one, who used his power to bring justice to all, who used God's power to proclaim the good news to all who would hear.

This one, Jesus when he was hanging on the cross had to endure the darkness sent to him by God. This one asked God why & all he got was God's silence. This one when he died God ripped up the curtain in the Temple of God, destroying its uniqueness. Jesus the one who had all power used that power not for himself but for the weak, the sinful, the oppressed, the dying. Jesus you see contrasts the politicians, the priests, the prophets of Micah's day. He is not on the take, he is willing to give. Give his life so that others might be saved. Willing to receive God judgement so he can make available to others God's grace and mercy.

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#### 4. Principality (4:1-5)

And so at the end of Micah 3 we see Zion, Jerusalem in ruins but that is not going to be the end of the story. For in chapter 4 we see Zion will receive a marvelous transformation. No longer a city in ruins, it will become the centre of the world. *"In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it."* So that seems to mean that at the end of time, Jerusalem will experience an extreme makeover. But let us not jump to that conclusion too quickly. When exactly are the Bible's last days?

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You see the last days are not really the days when Jesus will return and he may or may not set up a 1000 year reign here on earth, centred on Jerusalem. According to the New Testament, "the last days," refer to the entire period between the first coming of Jesus and His final return to judge the living and the dead at the end of the age. From 30AD beyond 2020AD until the very end of the world. So let me just give you two quick examples.

Peter on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 explains to the crowd, "This is what was promised by the prophet Joel that **in the last days** God would pour out His Spirit on all flesh." "What Joel saw, what Micah spoke about happening in the last days, took place as Peter preaches and as the Holy Spirit is given. Since Christ was raised from the dead, the last days have begun."

And in Hebrews 1:1-2 the writer says, *"In the past, long ago, God spoke to our fathers by the apostles. **But in these last days**, God has spoken to us by His Son whom He has appointed heir of all things."* So as Jesus preaches the good news, we see the beginning of these last days. So the last days have to do with the

church age, the whole period between the first and final return of Jesus. Not a few years before the very end or even a thousand years before the very end, but the whole age between the first and final coming of Christ.

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In those days, in the days that we currently live in right now, *“the mountain of the LORD’s temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. <sup>2</sup> Many nations will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.’”*

Now I don’t see everyone today streaming to a particularly high mountain. I see some people going to Mecca or the Ganges or Lourdes for a spiritual pilgrimage but not to a mountain. Actually I do see people streaming to the cross of Jesus Christ that was placed on a hill just outside Jerusalem where the original temple of God was built. I see people streaming to the cross today from every corner of the globe & every nation here on earth.

And those people are coming to the cross to worship God. To learn from God’s ways. To walk in God’s path. God’s special place of meeting in Jerusalem will be destroyed that’s what Micah is saying but it is going to be replaced by the body of Jesus Christ. He is the new Temple, He is the meeting place between man and God. He is the way the truth and the life. This is a prophecy that the nations will come to Jesus.

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Out of the ruins of a faithless nation in the back blocks of the middle east will come the Church of the Lord Jesus and God will begin his work again. And as the nations come to Jesus, God’s word will go out from Jesus. *“The good news will be preached to the ends of the earth. The saving knowledge of how to have a relationship with our Creator will travel far and wide to the nations. Knees will bow, hearts will change because of the word of Christ*

And that word will transform those who hear it. *<sup>3</sup>“He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.”* Families will be reconciled. Enemies will become friends. Justice will be done. *“They will beat their swords into plough shares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.”*

Slide 20

World peace will come. Not because the UN passed a resolution in the security council or President Trump found a way to deal with North Korea. No because the word of God has the power to change people from both sides of the fence. It has power to get rid of the entire military machine in all countries. It can reduce the number of nuclear weapons that are stockpiled throughout the world. It can diminish the numbers of standing armies amongst all nations. And so tanks turn into tractors, bombs into balers and missiles into milking machines. Farming it seems is the way of the future.

I remember backpacking through Europe in 1990, just a year or so after the wall had been broken down between east and west and all the talk was about the peace dividend. How we could spend all the money that used to spent on defence instead on schools, on hospitals, on people but it just never happened did it? We found new enemies instead. We spent even more money on the military so that we could secure our place in a post cold war world.

Slide 21

But Micah says in these last days, *<sup>4</sup>“Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig-tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken.”* That’s not a picture of self indulgence, they are not all sitting by the pool with a pina colada in their luxury hotels. No people are now content where they are. They are satisfied with their lot. They are not greedy for more or gluttonous wanting to consume more. They are thankful for the life that God has given them.

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For God has spoken. God is with them. Because <sup>5</sup>“*All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.*” They have the Lord and that is all that they need. They have his peace. They have his word. They have his Son, Jesus. And this may seem pie in the sky when you die but Micah says God has spoken. God has spoken. It will happen. It is his cast iron guarantee.

But you say, show me it? All I see today is war? And greed? And injustice? All I see is a world like Micah's. Where history is repeating itself. Where politicians and priests and princes seem like they are in it for what they can get out of it. No it must a hoax. Or it must be some time way in the future when Jesus comes again.

Slide 23

Well let me take you to the book of Hebrews, chapter 12. Listen to these words. <sup>18</sup>“*You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; <sup>19</sup>to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words...*, (and of course the writer is talking about Mount Sinai where Moses got the law). <sup>22</sup>*But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, <sup>23</sup>to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup>to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant.*”

We have already come to Zion. Because we have already come to Jesus. And the power to make this happen has already been given to us. We have the power of the word of God. We have the power of the Holy Spirit. We have the power of Christ. And that is the power to bring peace. The power to bring this sort of transformation. But so often we use that power for ourselves. We feather our own nest. We make beautiful our own homes, when we have been given that sort of power to help the weak, to reach out to the lost, to bind up the broken hearted and to bring joy to the saddened.

Slide 24

We don't have a herd mentality, we have a his or her mentality. We are the strong ones & we don't need the weak. No, no, no Micah says,

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<sup>6</sup>“*In that day,*’ declares the LORD, *‘I will gather **the lame**; I will assemble **the exiles** & those I **have brought to grief**. <sup>7</sup>I will make **the lame** my remnant... The LORD will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day & for ever.*” Do you get it? We are not the strong ones, we are the lame, we are the weak ones, we need to lean upon the strength of King Jesus. We need the strength of the Lord God Almighty.

Slide 26

And we need each other as well, as a Church. For as the last part of the chapter goes on to say this restoration will be achieved by God not in the absence of pain but through pain, in the midst of pain. For like a woman in labour, the pain will be harsh and all consuming but it will lead to blessing. The Lord will redeem his people, meanwhile the nations will be broken.

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Friends, Jesus says “I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.”

The future for the church is bright. Whatever the pundits and the pollsters may say about the decline of the Gospel and the decline of the church, the Word of God promises that the church will triumph. Yes you might see greedy politicians and gluttonous prophets getting away with murder but God is still doing his work today, right before our very eyes.

In the last days he will bring the nations to Jesus. He will teach them and lead them. And he will place within our grasp the power of the gospel. So friends what are you going to do with that sort of power? Use it to make life more comfortable or use it to comfort those with the good news of Jesus. Use it to grow your bank balance or use it to help God grow his church? Use it to have another piece of pie or use it to point people to the prince of peace?

<https://vimeo.com/113801439>



## Song – The Church's One foundation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1YBYrJ8Hzg>

## Song – Yet not I but Christ in me

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

## Benediction

*<sup>4</sup> In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. <sup>2</sup> Many nations will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.' The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plough shares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more. <sup>4</sup> Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig-tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken. <sup>5</sup> All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.*

## 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?