

Sunday 27th February, 2022

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church Welcome

The writer of Psalm 47 says these words,

"Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. ²For the LORD Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth. ³He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet. ⁴He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved. ⁵God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets. ⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. ⁷For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise. ⁸God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne."

Song – The Glories of Calvary

[The Glories of Calvary • Official Lyric Video on Vimeo](#)

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| <p>1. Lord, You're calling me to come
And behold the wondrous cross
To explore the depths of grace
That came to me at such a cost
Where Your boundless love
Conquered my boundless sin
And mercy's arms were opened wide</p> | <p>2. Sinners find eternal joy
In the triumph of Your wounds
By our Savior's crimson flow
Holy wrath has been removed
And Your saints below
Join with your saints above
Rejoicing in the Risen Lamb</p> |
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Chorus.

My heart is filled with a thousand songs
Proclaiming the glories of Calvary
With every breath, Lord how I long
To sing of Jesus who died for me
Lord, take me deeper
Into the glories of Calvary

Prayer

Father, we want to come today to offer our praise to you. We need you to quieten our busy minds as we come humbly, struggling to understand the enormity of who you are and your love for us. We know Lord that you have always been here, the beginning and the end. Your creation reminds us that you are all powerful, that you hold the stars in your hands. You give us life and breath; you sustain us, pursue us and redeem us. You are the truth in a world full of lies, light in darkness, the giver of hope through grace. You offer us wisdom, comfort and healing through your overwhelming love.

We come today to claim forgiveness, forgiveness that we don't deserve. We allow ourselves to be pulled away from the truth that you have given us. We stray in so many directions and fail to stop and remember you. We forget that you are eternal, and focus instead on the here and now. We are sorry for not doing what we should do, for allowing our pride, self-centredness and sinful nature to guide the way we live. And yet, in spite of all this, you continue to love us as you always have. Help us to remember that this morning and open our hearts and minds to your leading. Amen

Bible Reading – Revelation 3:1-6 (NIV)

"To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits^[b] of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ²Wake up!

Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. ³ Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. ⁴ Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. ⁶ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Announcements

Changes to our services. From today wearing a mask is optional. And from this Sunday we are going back to one service at Charlestown AM and it will be at 9:45am. Please note how Sunday mornings will look into the future

8am	Swansea church
9am	Charlestown Prayer Time
9:45am	Charlestown Church
10:50am	Morning Tea
(11:40am	Church BBQ – this Sunday only. BYO meat and salad to share)

Charlestown 9:45am. Please make a special effort to come next Sunday the first time the Charlestown AM people have been able to meet at the one time for almost 2 years!

New Weekly Prayer Meeting 9am Sundays in the church hall (starting Sunday March 6th) - On Sunday March 6th we are going back to one service at 9:45am. The same day we will start a new weekly prayer meeting at 9am in the church hall. It's through prayer that God works. This is a great opportunity to be involved in kingdom growth. Why not keep coming to church at 9am if you were coming to the 9am services? Why not come earlier no matter who you are? Through prayer we can bend the ear of God towards us and ask Him to work powerfully in our world and our church. Talk to Jon if you want more information.

Focus for the month – Vision (for Evangelism). In the book of Revelation we see the Church is pictured as a lampstand giving light in a dark world. Which means we need to hold up the light of the world in our communities and families. How do we do that? By looking to share our faith personally and by running events where our friends and family can hear the good news of Jesus in a welcoming environment. To do that is year we will have outreach events for men, women, youth and kids; special Easter and Christmas services; a link with the bible Society's Jesus: All About Life campaign and we will be running a three week course called Hope Explored a number of times throughout the year.

Bible Study Groups. It would be great if you were to consider joining one of our small groups, we have the following groups. We have men, women, mixed, young adults and young families groups either on a weekly or fortnightly basis, most in person but some on ZOOM. If you would like to be a part of group, please see Stephen or Jon.

Lords Supper. We will be celebrating the Lord Supper at all our services on Sunday 6th march. Please prepare yourself (and your family) to take the bread and the wine.

Coming Events.

- **JOY.** A social group that meets on the first Friday of each month at Belmont 16 footers. Next meeting Friday 4th March from 10-11am.
- **World Day of Prayer (at both Swansea and Charlestown)** Friday 4th March.
- **Men's Meal and Barefoot Bowls.** Friday 4th March. From 6:30pm at Charlestown bowling Club. Cost – purchasing your own dinner. Other alternatives? If you don't like bowls maybe we could play cards or board games? BYO. Please text Colin Wright on 0414 841 740 by Monday 28th Feb
- **Community Garden.** There will be a church community garden working day on the morning of Saturday 5 March from 8:00 am. For more details contact Stuart B.
- **Basket Weaving.** Our speaker Leanne Barnett will give a short message on knowing Jesus and a workshop on basket weaving using raffia. Saturday 19th March at 10-2pm OR 1-3pm. Venue:

Charlestown Presbyterian. Cost \$30 covers (raffia kit). RSVP to Jen Mulready by text to 0434 131 132 by Saturday 12th march.

Talk 1 - #wakeup! <https://youtu.be/tORgOkdXeQU>

In 1674 Margaret Halco married a Scottish Presbyterian minister by the name of Rev Henry Erskine. Unfortunately, the marriage didn't last all that long for a year or two later she died and Henry was devastated. He did something a bit unusual in those days he buried her with her jewelry, including a valuable ring on her finger. Now this temptation proved too great for the funeral director who saw the ring on her finger and came up with a cunning plan.

After the funeral service and the burial, the funeral director dug up the casket, removed the lid and proceeded to take all the jewelry. However, the ring was stuck on Margaret's finger. So, he took a knife to cut the finger off and as he tried to do that Margaret woke up! She had not really been dead at all just in a deep coma. The funeral director got such a fright he made a run for it which meant that Margaret had to make her own way back to her house. To which the person who opened the door fainted at the sight of a dead person knocking!

The postscript to this story was that Margaret made a full recovery and actually had two children who were both Presbyterian ministers whom God used to send revival to the Scottish Church! You see Margaret looked dead but she was actually alive. And when we come to the letter to the Church of Sardis it looked alive but was actually spiritually dead.

Slide 2

1. Reputation of Life (verse 1)

"To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead."

Now this is the fifth of seven letters to the Church of Asia. All drafted by the one who said *"I am the resurrection and the life."* They have all been put together by Jesus who once was dead but has come alive again. And here he is holding the seven stars in his hands. In his grasp are all the Churches so he knows which ones have a pulse and which ones are really dead! He has with him the seven spirits of God, the part of God that gives a Church life & vitality. And Jesus speaks to this church at Sardis & points out they have a reputation of life.

Slide 3

Now really most churches look like they are alive, don't they? They have services on a Sunday. Run programmes during the week. Have committees and meetings and plans and budgets. Some have lots of people who come to them each week and who greatly enjoy being a part of their Church community. But not all Churches are alive!

Slide 4

They are like a movie set, where they build the shopfront to look like its real but it has nothing behind it. There is no substance. Sardis looked like a church full of life but Jesus said, that is not true at all! You are dead! But the irony is they don't realise they are dead!

Slide 5

2. Reality of Death. (Verses 1-2)

"I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God." The Church of Sardis was doing plenty of things. Yes, there is lots of activity. They look alive, remember. But under the microscope of divine scrutiny and under the unblinking gaze of the Christ, their best works are found incomplete. So, they were busy doing things but what they did had little influence on the kingdom of God.

They were active but fruitless. Now I wonder would Christ say that about us here today? We have our music, our Bible studies, our committees, our outreach & our social events, we have plenty of things happening but that doesn't mean we are growing spiritually, that doesn't even mean we are *alive spiritually*. Are we putting on a façade where we look like we have it all together but if anyone was to look beyond the façade, beyond that smile, beyond that Bible Study they would find we are not growing in our faith, we are not trusting God, we are not reaching out to our community, we are not putting our faith into action?

Slide 6

I hope not. But it also works for us as individuals as well. Are we just putting on a show with our Christian life? Because we were brought up in Church and so got into the habit of coming. Do we really believe what we preach each week? Are we growing in our faith? Are we reaching out to the lost? Caring for those who are struggling? Actively relying on the Lord of life? We may look alive but are we really dead?

Now it is interesting that in Sardis there is no hint of opposition from the Romans or the Jews. Which is unusual. Because just down the road at all the other Churches there is plenty of that. And there is not a whiff of false teaching or compromise. And maybe that is because Satan doesn't have to pull out the big guns. Sardis is no threat at all to him. As someone once said, *"There is no trouble in a graveyard."*

Slide 7

But the truth is every Church has a life cycle. Dr Vance Havner used to say all churches go through four stages "A man, a movement, a machine and then a monument." And we have been fortunate over the last 25 years here at our Church we have shown definite signs of life but that was built on the hard work of people in the past. What about today? What about tomorrow? Have you noticed how little primary and high school families we now have? Have you noticed that there are people missing today? That a lot of our families are no longer in Church? What can we do start a new Church life cycle?

Slide 8

3. Remnant of Christ's Church.

But it is not all doom and gloom. There is some life in the body at Sardis. ⁴*"Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy."* So what are they to do to perform spiritual CPR on their Church? To breathe new life into a comatose congregation? Jesus says they can do 5 things.

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- *"Wake up!"* (verse 2) Wake up. Let the Spirit of God breath new life into the valley of dry bones! Don't just let the Church drift into never, never land. The time is short. Jesus will come like a thief in the night. Get going yourself and shake the people around you and remind them of how urgent the task really is. And then what?
- *"Strengthen what remains."* (verse 2) There will probably be some good things happening, so move them up to the next level. Add some life. Maybe they can fan the embers of the church back into flame.
- *"Remember what you have heard and received."* (Verse 3) Go back to the teachings that caused life in the first place. Bring to mind the blessings of the past. But don't just live in the past. Don't just hanker for the good ole days.
- *"Hold it fast!"* (verse 3). Keep it again. Obey it. Put what the Scriptures say into practice. Believe that God can do what he did in the past again in the present and into the future.
- And lastly *"Repent!"* (verse 3). Fix things up. Admit your mistakes to God. Look to his grace, his forgiveness, his help. A car will not just do a U turn by itself. It needs a driver to take control of the wheel. Seek to help the Church do its very own U turn. Model that repentance yourself. Be a part of the solution rather than just point out the problem.

Slide 10

There is always hope for the church. When it goes back to proclaiming Christ, preaching the Word, building one another up in faith & reaching out to the lost a Church's life can return.

That is also what happened to this Church. I believe in the late nineties our Church was really struggling and then a young minister named Kirk Patson came and God used him to turn things around. And that was the start of a period of growth for us here.

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But remember it is not our Church but the Church of the Lord Jesus. He is the one who is victorious & so he is the one who can change things around. *"The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels."* ⁶ *Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

Jesus is the one who can wake us up. Jesus is the one will strength what remains. Jesus is the one who started us off in the first place, so if we repent and believe in Jesus and hold fast unto him, Jesus is the one who can give us life again. And Jesus promises to do that to his Church. But not necessarily to our Church.

The Church of Sardis is no more. They didn't heed the message of this letter. And there are plenty of churches in Newcastle that shut up shop and are now cafes or restaurants, even night clubs. There is no guarantee that our Church will survive. The Presbyterian church in Scotland was at one time the envy of most of the world but it currently is a basket case. And in our own nation it is not the Presbyterians that are on the forefront of Church growth it is Anglicans, or the Evangelical churches or the Pentecostals.

Slide 12

But looks can be deceiving. Not all big Churches are alive. Some like Sardis have the reputation of life but the reality of death. But God always raises up a remnant of his people. What if that was to be you and me? Tasked for the rest of our life to wake up the Church. What if our call is to preach the gospel in Lake Mac and throughout the world. To jump start a movement that would change our nation for Christ.

You might not see this in me today but that is why I am in the ministry. Thirty years ago, I saw the writing on the wall for the Church and especially the Presbyterian Church. And I thought to myself do I stay in accountancy and just watch the car crash happen or do I try and take the Church to the emergency ward to get new life breathed into it? And I thought to myself, there is nothing more important in my life than to give myself fully to the work of God. So, I put up my hand. I believed so much in what God was doing amongst his people that I would spend my entire working life being a part of it.

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Now I am not saying all of us should do that. But I am saying some of you should. Be ministers. Missionaries. Youth workers. Evangelists. SRE teachers. But more than that. Elders. Sunday School teachers. Christian teachers. Christian marketers. Christian nurses. Christian mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters. Friends Jesus is coming back. Soon. Be found working for him. Holding on to him. And he promises he will never blot your name out of the book of life. He promises he will acknowledge you when he comes again.

Song – Will your anchor hold?

[Will Your Anchor Hold in the Storms of Life - piano instrumental hymn with lyrics - YouTube](#)

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| <p>1. Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
Will your anchor drift or firm remain?</p> | <p>3. It will firmly hold in the straits of fear,
When the breakers have told the reef is near;
Though the tempest rave & the wild winds blow
Not an angry wave shall our bark o'erflow.</p> |
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*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love.*

2. It is safely moored, 'twill the storm withstand,
For 'tis well secured by the Saviour's hand;
And the cables passed from His heart to mine,
Can defy the blast, through strength divine.

4. It will surely hold in the floods of death,
When the waters cold chill our latest breath;
On the rising tide it can never fail,
While our hopes abide within the veil.

Pastoral Prayer Points

Psalm 4: "In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety." This psalm is said to have been penned during the period of King David's when his life was turned upside and his son Absalom wanted to kill him. Yet David was still able to sleep in peace, trusting that God would keep him safe. Jesus, the greater than David, slept peacefully during the storm in the boat, trusting God the Father. Thank God that when we are in Christ, we can sleep peacefully during the storms of life, trusting the Lord will guide us safely to Canaan's shore.

Pray for Canada: Pray for a revival that would stir the Canadian people to give God His rightful place. Pray for immigrants to be drawn to Jesus by the testimony of diverse communities worshiping the Lord in unity. Pray for believers to humbly and lovingly represent Christ despite the pervasive stigma against Christians.

Parental Rights Bill (NSW): The bill will go to the Legislative Council for debate. Pray that it will pass in both the Upper and Lower Houses - to protect parental rights and stop schools from teaching gender fluidity to children.

Pray for our Church - Pray for the transition from two morning services back to one on Sunday March 6th. Thank God for all those who served to allow people to come every week. And especially for Stephen Taylor's effort during the pandemic period. Pray this move would lead to greater unity within our church.

Bible Reading – Revelation 3:7-13 (NIV)

"To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. ⁸ I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹ I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. ¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. ¹³ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Talk 2 - #thedoorisopen <https://youtu.be/sjegAnTb-Mc>

Some of you will know the story of John Paton who was one of the first missionaries to the people of Vanuatu. He arrived on the island of Tanna on November 5, 1858 and 3 months later his pregnant wife Mary gave birth to their son. For weeks Mary suffered from terrible bouts of fever and pneumonia and diarrhea and delirium. And then suddenly and tragically, she died. And a month later, their baby boy died as well.

Slide 2

Paton was now alone on an island of cannibals, overcome by grief himself, while battling 14 separate incidents of fever himself, coming close to death more than once. He dug the two graves with his own hands and later wrote, *"Stunned by that dreadful loss in entering upon this field of labor to which the Lord had Himself so evidently led me; my reason seemed for a time almost to give way...During all the following months & years when I labored on for the salvation of the savage islands amidst difficulties, dangers, and deaths, but for Jesus ... I must have gone mad and died beside that lonely grave."*

Paton stayed four years until he was forced to leave. And yet, Paton refused to count his years at Tanna a failure. He stayed in Vanuatu, relocated this time to a neighbouring island, the Island of Aniwa, where in short order, the entire island came to faith in Jesus Christ. "I claimed Aniwa for Jesus and by the grace of God, Aniwa now worships at the Saviour's feet."

Slide 3

For Paton the closing of one door meant the opening of another. There were obstacles everywhere but also opportunities that God presented to him. And that is also the picture we get in our sixth Church, the Church of Philadelphia. It was the youngest, and the smallest of all the seven Churches addressed in Revelation but a Church where the door was open.

Slide 4

1. Opportunities (verses 7-8)

*"To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true who holds the key of David. What he **opens** no one can shut & what he shuts no one can open. ⁸ I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you **an open door** that no one can shut."*

Jesus is the one who is speaking and Jesus is the one who holds the keys of David. The keys to the kingdom. The Kingdom of God. And because he holds the keys, the only keys to the kingdom he alone can let people in. He can open that door to whoever he wants to open it for. And he can shut it to whoever he wants to shut it for. And he has opened the door for this small and struggling Church. Yes, they are doing it tough but there is Jesus standing at that door, making sure that his own people get to enjoy all that God has prepared for them.

Slide 5

But the open door is not just the door of salvation for the people of the Church. It is also an open door for ministry from this Church. Throughout the New Testament, the expression "an open door" is often used for missionary opportunities. 1 Corinthians 16:9, Paul remarks that he would stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost because "a great door for effective work" had been opened for him. In 2 Corinthians 2:12 he writes, "When I went to Troas to preach the Gospel of Christ, a door was opened for me in the Lord." In Colossians 4:3 he calls on the church to pray that "God may open a door for our message so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ." Christ had opened not only the door to the kingdom of God for those at Philadelphia, but he had opened the way for the spread of the kingdom of God from the believers at Philadelphia to the world. Yet the Jews were trying to slam that door shut!

Slide 6

2. Opportunities but also **Obstacles** (verses 8b-9)

"See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹ I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you."

Slide 7

So there were two obstacles in particular. The first was that the Church at Philadelphia was weak. It has little strength. It didn't have the riches of its neighbour Laodicea. Nor the history and heritage of Ephesus. It was small, insignificant, poor and overlooked. And yet up against it was the might of the Jews and behind the persecution of the Jews was Satan himself. It wasn't just people that was opposing this church with little strength. It was the spiritual forces of the devil they were up against. So, the obstacles before them were huge!

Now when the Philadelphians looked at the "little strength" that they had, they concentrated on the word "little." Outwardly there was no much going for them. But Christ wanted them to emphasise the word "strength" because these were the words of the one who is holy and true. The one who holds the keys to

the kingdom. The one who had opened the door to heaven for them and was opening the door for them to reach others as well.

Slide 8

As Chuck Swindoll has said, *“the Church in Philadelphia had a little power with a great potential, not because of their size, resources or influence but because of the holiness, faithfulness and sovereign authority of their Lord”*. And I think that is something we need to keep remembering as a Church. We are not big in terms of numbers. We don’t have a great building. Or huge resources.

Slide 9

And sometimes we let our fears overcome us, what will people say if they find out that I am a Christian? Or our doubts, I have to know all the answers to other people’s questions before I share my faith. Or we know that our society is turning against us so why not take the path of least resistance, I will believe in Jesus myself but I will not take the opportunities that God gives me with others just in case they turn against me and give me a hard time.

But friends just think of the opportunities we have all around us. Look at the door that has opened for us in our suburb, our work places, our neighbours, our university. All who have been in this Church for a while have had some great teaching. Many of you have friendships that are encouraging you in the faith. We have some great models for you to follow. And the ministry of our Church is always opening our eyes to a world of possibilities.

Slide 10

3. Opportunities, Obstacles and thirdly Jesus’ offer (verses 9-13)

⁹ *“I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.”* Jesus says, I will take on those who are opposing you. The synagogue might be slamming their doors shut but in the end they are the ones who will not enter the door of salvation. And what’s more Jesus will keep the Christians of Philadelphia safe.

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¹⁰ *“Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.”* Notice Jesus doesn’t say I will stop the hour of trial. Nor does he promise that they will avoid the hour of trial. He pledges to keep them safe in the midst of the hour of trial.

Jesus might supernaturally protect them like he did with Israel from the plagues in Egypt in the time of Moses. Or he might remove them like he did with Lot as they escaped Sodom. Or he might be with them as he did with Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego where one like the Son of God walked with them in the fiery furnace. No matter what the world or the devil throws at them, God’s people will be safe, strong and secure with their Saviour, Jesus.

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And lastly, Jesus will honour them. ¹¹ *“I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”* ¹² *“The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.”*

Slide 13

The Philadelphians Christians will not just be another brick in the wall, not just living stones being built into a spiritual temple, they will be a pillar of the temple. One that helps hold others up. One that is special, significant. Do you know in the OT temple there was only two pillars in the whole temple? And here are the Christians of this weak, small Church being told they have this wonderful place of honour, they are a pillar of the Temple of God!

But it is not like the stained glass window at the back of the church or the plaques in older Church in memory and honour of the person themselves. On that pillar is not the name of the Christian, but the name of God. These Christians are declaring God's name, God's character. God's strength. Little strength, yes, but their littleness is point to God's strength.

Slide 14

You know sometimes I just feel so small and so insignificant. Sometimes I wonder what have I got to show for 40 years of being a Christian, 25 years of being in ministry. Sometimes I say to myself, I just can't do what God is asking me to do. I am no good at that. I am no good at evangelism. I am no good at hospitality. I am no good at conflict. No good at leading.

And so I have to remember, as you also need to remember, here at Philadelphia is a church with little strength. But with an open door. An open door to heaven opened for us by none other than Jesus himself. And an open door for ministry with others. An open door to witness to the people of Newcastle & maybe to witness to the people of the world. And yes You & I do have little strength. But we make up the little part & Jesus makes up the strength part.

So will we concentrate on the little? That will get us nowhere unless we take that littleness to Jesus. And then we can focus on his strength. His offer. And the opportunities he has put before us & remembering that it only through him that we can now overcome. To him who overcomes, they will get to sit with Jesus on his throne. Wow! How amazing will that be?

Song – This Life I live [This Life I Live \(Song Leading Video\) // Emu Music - YouTube](#)

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| <p>1. This life I live is not my own,
For my redeemer paid the price.
He took it to be his alone,
To be his treasure and his prize.
The things of earth I leave behind
To live in worship of my King.
His is the right to rule my life,
Mine is the joy to live for him.</p> | <p>3. There is a voice that pierced the grave
A power that rolled the stone away
A sound of life, I know I'm saved
The voice of God has called my name
So I will rise, and in the air
Behold the glory of the King
I will not fear to meet him there
I know my life is hid with him.</p> |
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2. I died to sin upon the cross
I'm bound to Jesus in his death
The old is gone, and now I must
Rely on him for every breath
With every footstep that I tread
What mysteries he has in store
I cannot know what lies ahead
But know that he has gone before.

Closing.

²⁶ To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—
²⁷ that one 'will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery'^[b]—just as I have received authority from my Father. ²⁸ I will also give that one the morning star. ²⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.