

Sunday May 17, 2020

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Prayer (Tom B)

Good morning everyone and welcome to morning church at Charlestown Presbyterian this morning. I hope you are all safe and well and managing to grow in your faith and relationships, despite the restrictions that have been placed on our freedom in recent times. No doubt many are finding it challenging, having such rules imposed on us, many of which make our lives more difficult.

What a great privilege it is, therefore, to worship a God who had saved us through grace rather than rules! Only through Jesus can we have true freedom, a freedom that defeats the slavery that sin held over us.

This morning, Stephen will be sharing with us from Chapter 2 of the book of Peter... and there seem to be a stack of rules in there! What's more, we see a stack of rules that appear counter-intuitive – and are surely nearly impossible to follow: “as foreigners & exiles, abstain from sinful desires... Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority... if you suffer for doing good & you endure it, this is commendable before God.” There are even a couple of verses that seem to contradict each other: “Live as free people... live as God's slaves...” What's that about? What could God, speaking through Peter, possibly mean?

Through God's grace, we have Stephen here today to help us make sense of this challenging passage. So, to prepare ourselves for this time of physically distant worship as a community, let's pray.

Our mighty Lord and Heavenly Father, we want to thank you that in the midst of all that occurs in our world, we are never alone. You are there to listen to us, to speak to us, to encourage us and to rebuke us. No matter how deep inside our own homes, how deep inside ourselves we might go as we are physically isolated, you are always there. Although we often fail to take comfort in this or to appreciate the incredible gift you have given us, we appreciate it. Thank you for never leaving us alone.

As we come to worship with our brothers and sisters, we ask that you will teach us, giving us eyes to see and ears to hear. Help us not to be complacent in our own homes, to recognise how important it is to continue to grow in our faith through prayer, song, reading and the teaching of Your Word. Switch our brains on and help our tongues and bodies to follow suit, applying what we might learn through service to you and the people around us. Remind us that you are a living, loving God who is shaping us and teaching us what it means to follow your son. And we can pray for these things because of the precious blood Jesus shed for us. Amen.

Song (modern) 10,000 reasons

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSxocnlaN0A>

OR Holy, holy, holy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ln-km29p7lo>

Bible Reading – 1 Peter 2:11-25 (NIV)

¹¹ “Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. ¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the emperor.

¹⁸ Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps. ²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." ²⁵ For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls".

Announcements

- **Focus for May – Mission.** This week we have an interview with the Lukins, retired missionaries from Ethiopia. Please keep missionaries in your thoughts and prayers this month especially as we seek to widen our focus away from ourselves & our situation to the work of the gospel throughout the world.
- **Vanuatu.** Many thanks to those who have been so generous in supporting our brothers and sisters in Vanuatu. This week we have been able to buy seeds for the Walaha community garden and to repair the fencing which protects the garden from the wild animals. These are specific requests that were given to us to help the people of Walaha bounce back from Cyclone Harold.
- **Small Groups.** With the NSW relaxing its social distancing requirements, our home groups will now have a choice to meet or remain on ZOOM. We have set up the Church and the Hall to enable groups to have fellowship together safely. Please contact your small group leader and find out what their plans are going forward.
- **Invitation Services.** Many people throughout the world are turning to the church or to prayer in this crisis. So now is a great time to invite someone to join us for Church. On Sunday 24th May our evening service will conduct a Facebook Live service over our public Facebook page. On Sunday 31st May we can organise for a paper service to be delivered to anyone or an interactive service be sent to their email address. So, begin praying for whom you might invite. And let Stephen or Jon know the details so we can get a service to them. Who knows god might even use it to bring someone into the kingdom?
- **Christianity Explored.** After the invitation service those who are interested in learning more about the Christian faith might choose to do a Christianity Explored course. This is a once a week commitment (via zoom) for 6-8 weeks. Suzie Chesterfield is going to run it. Who do you know that might benefit from hearing more about Jesus?
- Would you like **the elders** to pray for you? We are going to have a special time of prayer TODAY from 11:30am. You can contact us via ZOOM or phone. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85230605842?pwd=Y01KWWZqaldBQlc2VFk5K1BvZWY2dz09>
- **Monthly Matters** (formerly Days for Girls). Please mark Saturday 23rd May in your diary as a sewing day! For more details phone Julie Hearn on 0434 589 538.
- **Facebook.** Not part of our Church's Facebook group at the moment? Then why not join us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/563984673762656/>
- **Elvanto.** And while you are online please check out and update your Elvanto profile at the Church Elvanto page. This will help us greatly as a Church. And if you haven't signed up for Elvanto as yet, please contact Liz Hyslop on (gehyslop@optusnet.com.au) and she will help you sign up.
- **Prayer.** To celebrate the first step back as a nation we are setting apart tomorrow, Monday 18th May as a day of prayer and thanksgiving to the Lord. For Monday 18th May only we will be running three ZOOM prayer times.

One at 7am, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83627929531?pwd=SmJ1TzNralEyVGs0dnVmeDJadWtFQT09>
 One at 12:30pm <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81069010193?pwd=akN0Szl2c2xkSTIjK2x0S08ySVczQT09>
 and one at 7pm. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88279208169?pwd=ZHc5VnpZSVFBaGljV3MvQU1TZGtrQT09>
 Meeting ID: 882-7920-8169. Password: 466145. Our normal ZOOM prayer meeting on Thursday 21st may will be on as well. Please join us for one of these prayer times and if you aren't able to, please find a way to thank and praise God for this first step back to recovery.

- **Finances.** We are so thankful to those who are generously supporting the Church in this difficult time. A number of people have sent one off cheques or started a regular direct deposit which means this month we have met our budget! Thank you so much!

Budget for April	21,864
Actual for April	25.126
Surplus for April	3, 262
Surplus for Jan-Apr	9, 178

- **Pastoral Care.** Are you in need of pastoral care? Please don't be shy in asking. We have a number of people in the Church willing and able to help with shopping or getting medicines from the chemist or even help in your garden. Just speak to Jo, Jon or Stephen. And if you are self-isolating because you are waiting for a COVID-19 test or even if you have found out that you have this or any other ailments please let us know so that we can pray and provide any physical or spiritual help that you need.
- Bev Paterson (PWA Hamilton) has organised a zoom call with **Cath Puffet on 19th May from 10am.** Cath is currently a missionary in France and she her husband were at Scots Kirk Hamilton for 2 years. If you are interested in the details of joining the meeting please contact Annette Phillis

Family Matters – Zoom from Broome! (CMS in Broome)

Check out our Private Facebook Page for the video. Don't share or tag with other!

Kids Song 1,2,3,4,5 Jesus Christ is now alive

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECYn7r-Zbbg&list=PLSkYeXnWwUAtB1mUIMvPsz8PQD4VNHsQT>

Pastoral Prayer (Joanna B)

Our loving Heavenly Father, we praise You that You are a mighty and powerful God, and are sovereign in our world. Thank You that when we submit to You, we can trust that it will be for our good and for Your glory. Thank You for the human authorities whom You have put over us, who are ultimately answerable to You. Remind us to uphold them in our prayers, knowing they need your help. We particularly pray today for our PM, Scott Morrison, and all federal, state and local members. We ask for Your wisdom in the decisions they are making on our behalf, particularly in this time of Covid-19, when these decisions may have a profound effect on our communities. Help us submit willingly and graciously to the directives of those in authority, as we are instructed in Your Word.

Father, we ask that every member of our church would know Your presence with them during this time. We particularly pray for those in nursing homes or retirement villages, and ask that they would not feel alone and abandoned, but know that their brothers and sisters in Christ are praying for them and supporting them as much as is practicable. We pray too for protection for them from an outbreak of Covid-19, such as has occurred in other places. We think too of people living with disabilities, who may be experiencing a lower level of support, and ask You would uphold and support them. We pray for those living in a situation of domestic violence or substance abuse, and ask for Your protection of them and a special measure of Your grace. Thank You that the restrictions may be eased in the coming weeks, and we ask this would not lead to a significant increase in spread of the disease.

Lord, we pray for the Webbs in Broome, and particularly pray for protection for the members of the People's Church, who are vulnerable to illness because of their age and chronic health issues. Thank you that though there have been some cases in the area, travel restrictions have helped to minimise the spread. We pray for Your strength and wisdom for Chris and Karen as they lead the church; help them to model Christ to their parishioners, and to disciple them in a loving way.

We think of those who are unwell in our church family. We pray for Valmai Gallard, who has completed her radiotherapy, that it would be effective in managing her symptoms. We pray too for Lorraine Ejea, who is to start radiotherapy in just over a week, for strength and endurance. Lord, we thank You that we have effective treatments for these conditions. We pray for Judith Parker and ask You would ease her spinal pain, and if surgery is needed, it will be able to go ahead. We think too of our sister Ruth Myers who is in Gosford Hospital after a fall and head injury, and pray that her condition will improve and her headaches resolve.

Lord, we pray for the island nation of the Maldives, southwest of Sri Lanka, where Christians must keep their faith a complete secret, as authorities have declared the nation 100% Muslim. Father, please protect Your children there, who are at great risk of arrest and ostracism. Help them to have wisdom and caution in living out their faith; give them means of accessing Christian materials. We have recently experienced how difficult it is not to be able to meet, but that is their permanent situation, and we ask for a special measure of Your grace.

Please be with our ministers, Stephen and Jon, and help them as they negotiate these changed and unusual times in our church's life. Give them energy and ingenuity in all they do for Your kingdom, and help us to support them in their work. Help all of us to reach out to those who do not yet know Jesus as their Saviour and Lord – give us opportunities to speak and the words to answer any questions. Father, we pray for every member of our church, that we may be faithful in every aspect of our lives. Help us to teach and to model gospel truth, Your love and real change in all that we do. We pray all of these things in Jesus' might Name, Amen.

Song. **I will wait for you** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJUqY_6tqo

Sermon <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZt65ngLPqs>

Or <https://www.facebook.com/Charlestown-Presbyterian-Church-113127747005906>

Do you have to have an important job like a doctor or a teacher or an engineer to make a difference on our society? Do you have to be a mum or a dad to make a difference on your family? Do you need to be a leader at work or in government or in the church to make a difference to the people around you? Do you need a special talent or super power to get the chance to make a difference? Do you have to have it all together to make a difference?

There is a common belief today that you need some sort of status to be able to bring about change. Some sort of authority in order truly make your mark. Some sort of talent to stand out from the crowd. Some sort of position to influence others and impact our world. But Peter would disagree with this assessment completely. For he has just finished telling us that we a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession.

Do you get that? Christians do have a status you are a child of God. You do have a job, you a priest, a kingly priest in fact. You do have a place where you truly fit in, you are part of a holy nation. And you and I do have a mission, to declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light!

We can make a difference NOW! We can shed light where there was darkness. We can give hope to those that live around us. But how does that work in practice? Well in chapter 2 Peter comes up with a two-step strategy – we need to abstain from sin and embrace the good life. And then Peter in the next chapter and a half will apply that strategy to the world, to work, to family and to the Church. Now we won't get to travel that whole road today but as we follow the path that Peter cuts before us, we will see that God's strategy, involves submission, suffering & the Shepherd. So, let's see how you and I can truly make a difference

1. The Strategy (verses 11-12)

¹¹ "Dear friends, I urge you" **I urge you!** This is vital. This is important. *"I urge you as foreigners & exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us".*

If we want to make a difference it starts with us all turning from evil & abstaining from the sinful desires that wage against our soul. You see the battle is not against Satan or unbelievers, or Muslims or liberals. No, they are our mission field not our enemies. Our fight is not with what is going on all around us but what is going on within us! It was DL Moody who once said *"I have more trouble with DL Moody than any other man I know!"*

In fact, you and I will have so much trouble with what is going on within us that Peter calls it a war! But this is not a war that will make it onto the front pages of the paper, a war against terror, a war against waste or a war against COVID-19 but it is just as real. And so, you and I have to abstain from the sinful desires that are everywhere from the stores that we shop at; to the TV that we watch. From the desire to advance in our jobs; to the dream of winning the lottery. As strangers we have to abstain from sinful desires and instead do good deeds.

We avoid one thing in order to embrace another thing. We refrain from sinful desires so that we might give ourselves to the good life. God's life! For in the midst of this war we want to be a witness to God. We want everything we do to glorify God. And we glorify God not just by worshipping God or witnessing to God but by living the life that he is calling us to.

A life of holiness. A life where we fear God and love our neighbours deeply from the heart. A life where we rid ourselves of all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander. Peter says that sort of a life will glorify God on the day he visits us.

Wow, that's pretty powerful stuff. Does that mean that on the last day when God visits the whole world in judgement that people will realise the truth of God's gospel that was proclaimed to them by Christians and they will acknowledge God's glory even if they have never turned to Jesus? It could mean that. Or it could mean that when God visits them personally with the gospel of grace. That grace will powerfully change their hearts and minds so much that they will have no option but to yield to that grace and glorify God with their tongues.

You see Peter is presenting us with a big picture for us to consider. Our lives truly matter. We can make a difference. People could see how we live today and be compelled to praise God & glorify Him on the day he visits them.

But that might not be today. Today most people aren't glorifying God when they see you and I live. They are saying we are bad neighbours because we are not inclusive enough. They say we are on the wrong side

of history because we are not embracing the fluid morals of the society in which we live in. But as they point the finger at us, as they look at us closely if they were to see in you and I that we are better neighbours, more civic minded, more charitable, more compassionate, more engaged in the care of the poor than anybody else. Then their mouths would be stopped. And on the day God visits them they will glorify Him.

And friends that is Peter's strategy for us. That is how you and I can make a difference, a real difference. And one of the best ways we can do that is through submission

2. Submission (verses 13-18)

Now that was not the word I word have used. I would have thought Peter might have said be evangelistic, be faithful, be holy and all of those things are extremely important. But here Peter says if we want others to glorify God then it starts with, it begins with submission. ¹³ *"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority."* **To every authority!**

Not just to some. You know the ones that are easy to submit to. That good boss. That kind policeman. That just judge. Not just to them but to every human authority. *"Whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right"*.

We are not called to be revolutionaries overthrowing unjust governments nor patriots promoting our way of life as the way that everyone else must follow. Nor whingers pointing out how bad are current crop of leaders are. No, we are to submit to our emperor, our prime minister, our governors, our premier and our mayor and to their governments because God gave them to us for a reason. To stop evil and to encourage the good life.

You see submitting to our governments is one way the Christian is able to defeat the sinful passions in their own life. The government says don't drink and drive and so that helps restrain us from drinking and driving. It says don't steal or don't murder. Don't assault someone else or don't be violent with the people in your home and it would wise for us to submit to these rules because that will help us to fight the sinful desires in our own life.

¹⁵ *"For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves"*. There is no inconsistency between being a slave of God and obeying the laws of our nation. We can do both. We can render to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and render to God what belongs to God. But that is not to say that we treat everyone the same way.

Peter continues...¹⁷ *"Show proper respect to everyone"* for all are made in the image of God but, *"love the family of believers"*. You get that? Respect everyone but love your Christian brothers and sisters. It is not hate one and love the other. But respect everyone but there is a special place, a special love for believers. And *"fear God"*, He is the one you must put as number 1 but still *"honour the emperor"*. And who was the Emperor at the time? Nero!

Nero, who is known in history as being the worst of rulers. Who even covered Christians in pitch and lit them up as street lights so that he could race his chariots at night. Are we to honour Him!?!? Yes, because our submission will silence the talk of foolish men. It will show them we are good citizens because we are abstaining from the wrong desires and adopting the good life. And it will be commendable behaviour even

if we that causes suffering. For; ¹⁸ *“Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh”*.

We must be willing to submit to the government even when it is unjust as well as submit to our masters even when they are cruel. Now why would we want to do that? Because we want to make a difference. Because we want to display the gospel of Grace. We want to glorify God in all that we do and this is how he is calling us to live.

Now if we submit like this will we be rewarded? Will it change our unjust boss into a just boss? Will it lead to replacing bad leaders like Nero with good leaders who are Christians? No, it won't. In fact, if we do submit the most likely response is that we will

3. Suffer (verses 19-24)

¹⁹ *“For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God”*. The reward for submission is suffering. Now that is a hard truth because none of us want to suffer, we don't want pain, do we? We want security and safety not suffering.

A couple of weeks ago we were praying at our Church prayer time and I was praying for safety for health workers. Strength for those who sick. Protection on the ones that I love from this pandemic when I stopped myself. If God is in control then maybe he is allowing this to happen to do something in us. To humble us. To make us more dependent upon him. To grow our faith. And often God will do that work in us when we suffer.

And so, I shouldn't be short circuiting the work of God. Yes, it is a good thing to pray that God would protect us and strengthen us and give us safety but it might be even better that God would teach me, change me & humble me. And if God uses suffering to do that, well that's fine. In fact, in the words of Peter it is commendable. Actually ²¹ *“To this you were called because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps”*.

Submission is our calling as it was Christ's calling. He submitted to both his father God by coming to this world and submitted to the government of his day when they strung him up on the cross. Suffering is also our calling because it was Jesus calling as well. ²³ *“When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.”*

Jesus walked down a road of suffering and he has called us to follow him. Do we really think that we are to avoid suffering, or that we should want to avoid suffering? It was through his suffering that we are healed. It was by his death that we were forgiven. It was as Jesus refused to pay back evil for evil that evil was defeated, once and for all. On the cross. His suffering was for our gain. God can and will turn our losses into His gains.

How does Paul put it in Romans 8? *“All things work for the good of those who love him.”* And Paul goes on to remind us *“shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or sword”* separate us from God? Will it take us away from his plans and purposes in this life? And his answer is an emphatic NO. *“No in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”*

Now there is more to be said about suffering and the rest of the Bible will help fill that out. But one thing I want to say is that Peter is not suggesting that those of us who are suffering unjust treatment should simply endure it quietly, and that's all. He doesn't intend to say to victims of injustice that it is wrong to pursue redress. For the people to whom he was writing had no earthly recourse. They were stuck. They had no choice. Nowhere to go. Except like Christ they could entrust themselves to him who judges justly.

We are in a different circumstance. If you are being abused at home. Wrongly imprisoned. Beaten at work you have avenues that you could pursue in fact you should pursue. God is a God of justice. If you can help bring justice here on earth then justice should be done. But here the issue is not just justice but vengeance. Jesus didn't give back evil for evil. Jesus said forgive them. Jesus took the punishment that they deserved on himself. Without recourse.

That is what Peter calling us to do to be like Jesus. Be willing to suffer. And don't retaliate. Don't fight fire with fire because if people look at the good life that you are living it might help them draw the dots between your suffering & Jesus suffering. You see anyone can fight back. Anyone can return evil for evil. Only the Spirit filled believer, the one who has Jesus as their example, as their substitute, as their shepherd will submit and let God fight for them.

4. Shepherd (verse 25)

²⁵ For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls". Rather than having sinful desires warring against your souls as was the case in verse 11, we have a shepherd overseeing our souls. Rather than walking in our own steps, we are following in the footprints of our Shepherd Jesus. Rather than living a self-centred and me shaped life, Peter's is calling us to a Christ centred and cross shaped life.

For the model that we are following, the template that we looking to, the blueprint that is before us is the life of Jesus. Who did abstain from the sinful desires that waged war against his soul and who did live such a good life amongst both pagans and Israelites that although they accused him of doing wrong, they too will see his good deeds and glorify God on the day that He visits us.

So how does Peter get to this point? Where doesn't his eureka moment of submission and suffering and following the good shepherd, where does that come from? Well let me tell you where it doesn't come from. It doesn't come from bingeing on Netflix. It doesn't come from watching endless sports videos. It doesn't come from playing video games. It comes from meditating on Isaiah 53.

For that is the passage that Peter has just quoted from. He has read Isaiah 53, reflected on Isaiah 53, mediated on Isaiah 53 and he realises that suffering was the lot of the prophets. That has been the lot of the apostles. In fact, all those who want to follow Jesus will suffer Jesus has said. Because Jesus himself suffers. And we are following him.

So, friends I urge you as a stranger to abstain from sinful desires which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives amongst the pagans. Follow in the steps of Jesus. For this is how we are going to make a difference to the lives of others. We are not without power. We are not without influence. For if we follow the strategy set down before us, if we are willing to submit, if we are will to suffer, if we are willing to follow our good shepherd Jesus then this passage promises that some will see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. Others will have their ignorant talk silenced. And you will be commended for following in Jesus footsteps.

And I have seen this happen. Throughout my ministry I have seen faithful men and women in the Church being willing to submit and who do suffer and it has made a difference to their friends & family. Sometimes even people have come to the Lord because of their example. Their physical display of grace opens up their ears to God's wonderful gospel of grace. But are they going to see that in you and I?

Adoniram Judson, the renowned missionary to Burma, endured untold hardships trying to reach the lost for Christ. For 7 heartbreaking years he suffered much for his Lord. During this time, he was thrown into Ava Prison, and for 17 months was subjected to almost incredible mistreatment. As a result, for the rest of his life he carried the ugly marks made by the chains and iron shackles which had cruelly bound him.

Undaunted, upon his release he asked for permission to enter another province where he might resume preaching the Gospel. The godless ruler indignantly denied his request, saying, "My people are not fools enough to listen to anything a missionary might SAY, but I fear they might be impressed by your SCARS and turn to your religion!" Maybe, just maybe people will only listen to what we might say if they see on us the scars of Christ!

Song This Life I live <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8clZA9HFxtU>

OR Dear Lord & Father of Mankind <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqOnjmr9Ah0>

Benediction.

¹¹ "Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us." (NIV)

Virtual 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 join us on ZOOM for a virtual morning tea. You can connect by

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89081952206?pwd=aGVTcm1oOHp3VXMxYVg0bk5HSS9rZz09>

Meeting ID: 890 8195 2206 Password: 797654

Or it might work better for you to give one or two people a call. Who might your ring now?

And don't forget if you need prayer. The elders will be meeting for prayer at 11:30am this morning.

- Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85230605842?pwd=Y01KWWZqaldBQlc2VFk5K1BvZWY2dz09>