

Sunday August 2, 2020

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Prayer

Have you noticed how many Psalms in the Bible have a real dark edge? They are not praise psalms or Psalms filled with joy or thanksgiving, they are Psalms filled with Why questions. Filled with pain and sorrow. Filled with raw and difficult language. And yet the Psalms have been the song book of the Bible for 2500 years. It is like the writers of the Psalms are saying to us, it is OK not be OK. You are allowed to come to worship down and disappointed, grieving and struggling. Because life isn't always fair. But when you are down the best thing to do is look up. Pray to the Lord, Sing to the Lord. Speak to the Lord.

Listen to this Psalm for example, Psalm 130 “*Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD; 2 Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. 3 If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? 4 But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you. 5 I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. 6 I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. 7 Israel, put your hope in the LORD for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. 8 He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins*”.

Today we are continuing the journey of the book of Job. And we see Job hit rock bottom. But I suppose when we hit rock bottom we are then able to start to build our lives again on the rock. So let's pray

“Thanks for the chance to come and worship you this morning. We have looked forward to this all week. We have longed to meet with you in prayer. We want to hear your word spoken and preached to us today. We look forward to fellowship if not in the flesh but certainly in the Spirit with our brothers and sisters in Christ. So we ask as we come to you this morning that you will cleanse us of all sin. We ask as we open ourselves up to you this morning that you would fill us with your word and your Spirit. We ask as we bring our wounds to you this morning that you would heal them with your grace. And we ask that having been changed this morning, we can be help bind other people's wounds, we can help comfort others who are struggling, we can point others to the rock which is Jesus Christ. And we ask this in Jesus name.”

Songs: Blessed be your name

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVPlmVe2WcQ>

Glory be to God the Father

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikH8DfDADxc>

Bible Reading – Job 2:11-1

¹¹ When Job's three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathise with him and comfort him. ¹² When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognise him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads. ¹³ Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.

Announcements

- **Term 3.** This term we start our second morning service at Charlestown. This is a big undertaking. It means extra rosters, extra cleaning, extra administration, extra manpower. But it also means that everyone attached to our Charlestown morning service can now attend Church fortnightly rather than monthly. So we think that is worth the extra work! Please support this new undertaking by
 - Registering your intention to come (or not come) by Thursday each week
 - Leaving the first service within 10 minutes of completion
 - Arriving for the second service within 10 minutes of the start of the service.

- Helping wherever you can. We especially need help with Bible readers, prayers, cleaners and musicians. If you can help, just let Stephen know.
- **Focus for August – Hospitality.** During the COVID-19 pandemic we have needed (by necessity) to withdraw and social distance from others, for our own protection and theirs. Now that things are beginning to open up we need to start taking steps to restore hospitality to our agenda. So how can we be hospitable this week with our Church friends and our work friends or school friends? Could we invite them around for a meal or drinks? Could we meet in a café or restaurant? Could we facetime or ZOOM with friends further away? How are you going to put hospitality back on the menu?
- **Bible Reading Challenge.** How did you go? What was your favourite reading? How has your picture of God changed this month? Please drop Stephen an email or a note to tell you how it has gone.
- **Prayer Meetings,** each Monday 8pm and Thursday night at 7pm on ZOOM.
- **Grief Seminar.** We are planning to run a seminar on Grief on Sunday 23rd August from 2pm. Ruth Myors, Jo Barlow and Stephen Taylor will all contribute. More details to come next week.
- **Session** will be meeting this Wednesday at 7:30pm. If you have any issues you would like to raise with the elders, please let Ross Logan know.
- **JOY** will be meeting this Friday at 10am at the Belmont 16 footers. All welcome.

Kids Talk ~ Quizworx <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qej-9dOOPgk&feature=youtu.be>

Pastoral Prayer (Simon Mulready)

Lord God, our heavenly Father, help us to live by faith in you, and in your Son the Lord Jesus Christ and his gospel, praising you, God of our salvation, and knowing that we are justified freely through the redemption that came by the atoning sacrifice Jesus Christ, as we trust in his blood shed on the cross.

Help us to live by faith in you, Lord Jesus Christ, when your church is sinful, when the world is sinful, when you delay your judgement, and when you come again to judge all people. Help us to live by faith in you, Lord Jesus Christ, as you redeemed us from God's curse, and not trust in our own good works. Help us to live by faith in you, not to shrink back or throw away our confidence, but to persevere in faith to the end, and so be saved. Lord, we believe; help our unbelief.

Heavenly Father, help us to live by faith in your gospel promises when we doubt, when our faith is tested, when we face trials and temptations, when we are ill, when we are busy, when we are distracted, when we are persecuted, when we have sinned, when we need to put sin to death and live to righteousness, when our love is weak, when our hope fades, when our good works falter, when we are weak and frail, and when we face our death.

Lord, in your mercy, strengthen the faith of the church in Turkmenistan. Living in the shadow of persecution, imprisonment, and beatings, may their trust in you be strong and steadfast. May they know you as the sovereign Lord, the everlasting king, the good shepherd. May they have opportunity to meet safely in fellowship and know the comfort of your word.

We pray also for the country of Vanuatu. Thank you that they have known protection from COVID -19, and we ask that they may continue to live without the virus in their country. Lord we pray for the communities heavily impacted by the loss of tourism and also for those still recovering from the cyclone. May this be a time for the people of Vanuatu to recapture their love for you & rely on you in all things. May their needs be provided for. We pray for a way that we might be able to send a team to Vanuatu in January 2021.

In our own church, Lord, we pray for patience. As time goes on and we wish for life to return to normal, may we look to you for wisdom, help and strength. We pray for those in our community who are struggling with mental health, depression, anxiety, disability support, loneliness and domestic violence. May we be able to care for our own people who are struggling, while also bringing salt and light to our community.

We thank you that we have been able to commence a second morning service at Charlestown. We pray that this will enable more opportunity for our church to fellowship together and encourage each other to live for Jesus. Grant wisdom to our church leaders as they manage the changing health regulations. May they also know peace and rest in your grace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

Song. From the Depths of Woe

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_eJUqY_6tqo

Bible Reading – Job 3:1-26 (NIV)

3 After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. **2** He said: **3** 'May the day of my birth perish, and the night that said, "A boy is conceived!" **4** That day – may it turn to darkness; may God above not care about it; may no light shine on it. **5** May gloom and utter darkness claim it once more; may a cloud settle over it; may blackness overwhelm it. **6** That night – may thick darkness seize it; may it not be included among the days of the year nor be entered in any of the months. **7** May that night be barren; may no shout of joy be heard in it. **8** May those who curse days curse that day, those who are ready to rouse Leviathan. **9** May its morning stars become dark; may it wait for daylight in vain and not see the first rays of dawn, **10** for it did not shut the doors of the womb on me, to hide trouble from my eyes.

11 'Why did I not perish at birth, and die as I came from the womb? **12** Why were there knees to receive me and breasts that I might be nursed? **13** For now I would be lying down in peace; I would be asleep and at rest **14** with kings and rulers of the earth, who built for themselves places now lying in ruins, **15** with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver. **16** Or why was I not hidden away in the ground like a stillborn child, like an infant who never saw the light of day? **17** There the wicked cease from turmoil and there the weary are at rest. **18** Captives also enjoy their ease; they no longer hear the slave driver's shout. **19** The small and the great are there, and the slaves are freed from their owners.

20 'Why is light given to those in misery, and life to the bitter of soul, **21** to those who long for death that does not come, who search for it more than for hidden treasure, **22** who are filled with gladness and rejoice when they reach the grave? **23** Why is life given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in?

24 For sighing has become my daily food; my groans pour out like water. **25** What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me. **26** I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil.'

Sermon – The Dark Night of the Soul! ~ Stephen Taylor

<https://youtu.be/mVhV0CO0jXY>

A long time ago, before I was a minister, I was sitting at my desk one day doing some work when the phone rang. I picked it up & it was one of my best friends, Richard. "How are you going I asked?" "Not too good", he replied, "could you come around?" "Sure. Any reason?" "My sister and her husband have just been involved in a murder/suicide". "I'm on my way!"

I still remember that was a tough, tough day. Tough for me, but so much tougher for Richard. As I was driving to his house I was thinking what on earth am I going to say? What would God want me to do and say? And throughout the day I had to listen to a friend in pain, to a friend in shock, to a friend in deep, deep darkness.

That's the thing about life, it can all change in a phone call. And we have seen that in Job chapters 1 and 2, haven't we? Job was living a good life, a blessed life when in a matter of moments, his crops were destroyed, his livestock taken, his slaves stolen and the worst of all his kids all killed. And then a short time after, Job was attacked with a disease that removed him from his home, destroyed his health and let him on the rubbish heap.

And there he sat, alone, totally alone. The emotional pain is added to his physical pain. The spiritual pain multiplies the relational pain. And he sits there for a long, long time. Until some mates come to visit him and if they are typical blokes they have come around to do something, to fix something, to roll up their sleeves and lend a hand. But there is nothing to do but sit with their mate. And they do that for 7 days. 7 days. But the silence is broken with

Slide 3

1. Cursing (verses 1-10)

There you go Satan was right that if God takes all the good things away from his servant Job he would curse God to his face. And maybe in the end he had taken his wife's advice to "go on and cures God and die." Just curse God and get it all over with!

But no, that's not what has happened here. Verse 1, "*After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed... the day of his birth*". Job didn't curse God, he cursed his birthday and we will find out a little bit later he also curses the day he was conceived. Those two days, days of joy and happiness, have not turned out to be great days after all. The day he was conceived, the day he was born have led Job to this physical, emotional, relational, spiritual nightmare. To this dark, dark night of the soul.

And as we listen to Job speak, it hits us like an earthquake. It shakes our world. Job's language is raw and real. Earnest and honest. And if we have any sense of compassion, any sense of care, we ourselves are hurt by what Job goes on to say. Listen to Job's cursing...

Slide 4

³*'May the day of my birth perish, and the night that said, "A boy is conceived! ⁴That day – may it turn to darkness; may God above not care about it; may no light shine on it. ⁵May gloom and utter darkness claim it once more; may a cloud settle over it; may blackness overwhelm it. ⁶That night – may thick darkness seize it; may it not be included among the days of the year nor be entered in any of the months.*

Slide 5

⁷*May that night be barren; may no shout of joy be heard in it. ⁸May those who curse days curse that day, those who are ready to rouse Leviathan. ⁹May its morning stars become dark; may it wait for daylight in vain and not see the first rays of dawn, ¹⁰for it did not shut the doors of the womb on me, to hide trouble from my eyes.'*

Slide 6

Let's scrub those two days off the calendar. Let's just pretend they didn't happen. Let's go back into a time machine and physically remove them from the history of the world. Kaylene has a running joke at home where when one of the kids has a birthday or a special event they are especially looking forward to, she will say, "I just got a call from the prime minister and he has had to cancel today!" Sorry about that.

But Prime Minister's just can't do that, can they? And neither can Job. But he wished he could. He is in so much pain, so much torment that he has forgotten the blessings of having a wife and 10 kids. He is forgotten his former wealth, the good things that God has given him. Forgotten that at one time he was the greatest man in the east. He was the Bill Gates of his time. So when he compares the good things he once had with the pain he now has, the pain is infinitely worse. And so he wishes he was never born.

Slide 7

And if you could describe Job's current state in one word, it is darkness. In two words? Pitch blackness. Did you hear him talk about that time after time again? May that day turn into darkness, no light shine on it. May gloom and utter darkness claim it once more, may a cloud settle over it, may darkness overwhelm it. May thick darkness seize it. May it wait for daylight in vain and not see the first rays of dawn.

It is like the opposite of creation where there was darkness and nothing all around and God says Let there be light. Now Job wants to reverse the process. For the light has gone and all there is left is darkness. There is no dawn to look forward to. No ray of light about to come in, no light at the end of the tunnel. It seems that darkness is Job's only friend. This long, long night is his constant companion.

In chapter 1 Satan attacks Job's wealth and family. In chapter 2 Satan attacks Job's health and status. Now it seems that Satan is attacking Job's heart and mind. He is saying to Job & Job is believing Satan's words that it would have been better off if he had never ever lived.

Now is that true? Now as the book of Job goes on Job will realise that this is not true. But for him right here, right now, it certainly feels true. And this is a follower of God. A believer. Someone that the book of Ezekiel will place with Noah and Daniel as the pinnacle of righteousness. This is the one that God has boasted to Satan that there is no one like Job in all the world. This guy is well and truly saved.

Yet he is going through a deep, deep night of the soul. Through immeasurable pain. Through a situation that is beyond, completely beyond his ability to cope, to function, to live through. In the OT we see Elijah goes through a similar situation when he is pursued by Queen Jezebel. Jeremiah travels the same path when the people of God go into exile. The Psalmist, oh a number of Psalms are just filled with pain and anguish & deep, deep darkness.

And yet if you know your church history you will know that this black dog attacked Martin Luther, William Cowper, Charles Spurgeon, some of the great, great ones had this battle with the darkness all around them, with the darkness that was consuming them. And you don't need to be in Church for very long to hear your friends, your family members, even your Christian mentors tell you that this too has been their experience.

Because Christians can and will feel like this at times. And still be Christians! And still have a strong faith. Job wrestles with God, he challenges God, he questions God, he struggles with God and he does this as an authentic believer. He is being real with God not a fake. He is not putting on his Sunday best, he is letting it all hang out. And in the end God will praise him for his authenticity. For his honesty. For his faith.

Slide 8

When I hear these things I might feel embarrassed, I might feel that the Jobs of this world shouldn't be saying these things. Cursing the day of his birth is incredibly close to cursing the God who made the day of his birth. But like the friends in chapter 2 sometimes we just have to be there and listen to our friends in pain. For sure I can't sit there completely in the same spot they are in. But I can listen. I can be a caring presence. I can weep with those who weep

And that's what Job's friends did, initially. They didn't avoid their friend, they went to him. They didn't do it on their own, they worked as a team. They sat with them, they sympathised with him, they comforted him, they stayed with him, a long, long time.

Slide 9

And we Christians can help those who are in darkness with the right actions but we can hurt them with the wrong actions. In the book 'I am not supposed to feel like this', author Chris Williams writes, "*It is bad enough that I feel low or anxious. But on top of that I feel guilty; for I ought not to feel low as a Christian. I*

feel that I ought to be able to cast my cares upon him for he cares for me (1 Peter 5:7) & yet somehow I can't!" Job curses and then

Slide 10

2. Job Questions (verses 11-19)

And the question Job asks again and again is why? Five times we meet this "why" question.

- Verse 11: "Why did I not perish at birth, and die as I came from the womb?"
- Verse 12: "Why were there knees to receive me and breasts that I might be nursed?"
- Verse 16: "Why was I not hidden away in the ground like a stillborn child?"
- Verse 20: "Why is light given to those in misery...?"
- Verse 23: "Why is life given to a man whose way is hidden...?"

Slide 11

Why? Why? Why? But those why questions are difficult to answer aren't they? And yet they are the favourite with young children. Why do I have to go to school? Why is the sky blue? What did my rabbit have to die? Why can't I stay up as late as you? Actually according to a recent survey when kids ask these why questions, parents are increasingly going to Google or Siri for their answers. But Job doesn't have access to Google but then again Google won't have any good answers to these questions anyway.

And what if God answered Job and told him why? Why I did not perish at birth? Because I wanted you to trust me in both the good and the bad things in life. Why have I lost everything? Because I wanted to prove to Satan that you loved me more than you love the things I gave you. I am not sure the answers to these why questions, even if we could get the definite answers, would do us any good.

What if we were to ask our doctor, why is my leg broken? And he showed you the Xray and said well your fibia just couldn't handle the pressure of your fall off your bike. That doesn't really help you with the pain does it? You need solutions not just explanations.

Slide 12

But Job has moved from cursing the day of his birth to looking forward to the day of his death. Why live any longer he asks? I want to get rid of my pain, my trouble, my darkness. I want peace, I want rest. And maybe the only thing that will give me this rest is when I die.

And so Job talks about death. He says death is the great leveller. It liberates all people from all walks of life from all inequities. If you are rich & powerful like a king or prince, you leave your homes of silver. And if you are wicked, you cease from your internal turmoil. If you are weary you get rest. If you are a captive you are freed from doing what other people tell you to do. The small are there and so are the great. The slaves are there and so are their owners. Job thinks death is worth looking forward to because there we all leave our troubles behind.

Now do you want to jump in and correct Job at this point? Do you want to say Job, no you are wrong. Death is good for the follower of God but it is bad for the one who has rejected God. Death is not the great equalizer. Death isn't all about peace and rest. I know I do!

Slide 13

How do you feel when someone like Job cries out in their pain and says things that you don't agree with, even that God wouldn't agree with? Well we will deal with that question next week when we hear what Job's friends do to his cursing and his questioning.

But can I just say a couple of things before we go on. Job chapter 3 is in the Bible for a reason. So is the book of Lamentations and Jeremiah 15 & 20. So is the book of psalms and all its laments, including Psalm 88 maybe the darkest of all the dark Psalms in Israel's song book. We might want a religion of joy and

victory. But God says you will have the dark nights as well as the sunny days. The pain and the joy. The laments and the praise songs.

Which means it is OK to ask the why questions. It is OK to speak to God in this sort of language. After all he knows what is going on in your heart anyway. You can't hide your pain from him, and to think you could would be to ... is just plain crazy.

Slide 14

Joni Eareckson Tada has written: "...make no mistake, Job's questions to God weren't of the polite Sunday School variety. They were pointed, sharp and seemed at times on the border of blasphemy...Tough, searching questions. Job's friends were horrified... And that, to me, is the comfort of the book of Job. What meant the most to me in my suffering was that God never condemns Job for his doubt and despair. God was even ready to take on the hard questions." So we have seen Job cursing, Job questioning and lastly we see

Slide 14

3. Job Sighing (verses 21-26)

²³"Why is life given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in?" In chapter 1, Satan claimed that God had put a hedge around Job protecting him from all the tough stuff. But as Job sighs, as he groans, as he feels all this pain, Job feels that God has hedged him. He can't escape from this nightmare. It is like the Lord has locked the door and thrown away the key.

I believe that is what some elderly people feel as the world closes in on them. First they can't travel a long distance from home, then it is just their neighbourhood, the doctors and the shops, then only their house and garden, then maybe a room in nursing home, until finally just a bed. The walls close in. The hedge comes closer and closer. You can't escape!

²⁴"For sighing has become my daily food; my groans pour out like water". ²⁵What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me". This sort of suffering is not just physical, it's psychological as well. Job has had to deal with the loss of physical possessions, physical family members and physical health and when he loses these things he still able to praise God and to worship Him. But as the voices in his head get louder, as the questions on his mind get harder, as the walls start closing in all around him. His fears are becoming real.

Slide 16

What do you think Job fears the most? I don't think it is losing his wealth and his family leaving him a lonely, old man. Even though that is a real fear. I think what he fears is that he has lost touch with God. He no longer has God's hand of blessing upon him. He doesn't understand why God has given and now taken away. He doesn't understand who God is at all, any more. He thought he knew the Lord. He thought God was with him. But now he has his doubts. The thing that he feared the most is that he would lose the Lord. He would lose his relationship with God. So above all else this is a spiritual struggle. A torment of body, mind, emotions and soul.

Slide 17

And that is why he concludes with these four body blows. ²⁶"I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil." That is why he curses the day that he was born because if he was never born he would now be at rest. He looks to death because if he was now dead then he would be at peace. It is because his life is full of sighing and groans, there is no quietness. Why has God allowed this to happen? Where is God, my God, he cries out?

Again what are you going to say when someone says this to you? How do you minister to someone who has such deep needs? When my friend Richard called me to come over it was not because I was a minister that he wanted me there, because I wasn't one then, he wanted a friend. So are you going to tell your

friend to keep on believing? Are you going to defend God and his right to do as he pleases? Are you going to open the Bible and point them to Jesus suffering?

Slide 18

Yes maybe you will do that at some time, but not now. Job is looking at life from the wrong end of the binoculars. God seems so far away. God doesn't seem to care. Job's vision is blurred and if we get caught up sitting on the ash heap our vision will be blurred as well. And at this point what Job needs are friends, not facebook friends but real friends.

Slide 19

And Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar have sat with Job in his suffering. They have listened to what he has to say. They have stayed for days & days to give him the company that he needs. The presence that he so desires. But no matter what these friends do, Job is still alone.

He feels alone. Because no one can possibly understand all the ins and outs of Job's situation. No one can feel the pain that Job is feeling. No one feels that same fear rising up in side of him & that dread taking over them completely. No one could until another blameless man came to this earth and suffered physically, spiritually, emotionally & relationally.

Slide 20

Job doesn't know it but his loneliness and pain and suffering foreshadows someone who will experience an even greater loneliness, a deep pain and a more horrendous suffering. Two thousand years later another believer of which God is immensely proud of was also in darkness, deep, deep darkness. On the last night of his life he was surrounded by his three of his closest friends in the garden of Gethsemane and yet he found himself alone, with the others all sleeping and then running away.

He was then betrayed by a friend, unjustly tried, stripped, whipped, humiliated and strung up on a cross. And if that wasn't hard enough, darkness then covered the whole land for a couple of hours. Creation was being reversed. Light was no longer shining. Darkness had won the day. And Jesus dealing with his suffering, his tremendous suffering cries out "*My god, my god why have you forsaken me?*"

Slide 21

Here was one who plumbbed the depths of human sorrow. Here is one who not just can sit with us but has walked through that valley, he has found himself in that abyss, he has endured the sort of pain that no one else has ever endured.

Slide 22

Commentator Jean Danielou puts it this way. "*Suffering encloses a man in solitude.. Between Job and his friends an abyss was cleft. They regard him with astonishment as a strange being... But they could no longer get to him. Only Jesus could cross this abyss, descend into the abyss of misery, plunge into the deepest hell.*"

Slide 23

And what does Jesus say? He declares "*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but in the light of life.*" Jesus doesn't take away our darkness he becomes the light in our darkness.

Slide 24

Doesn't he also say, ²⁷*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."* Trust in God, trust also in me. Jesus doesn't take our suffering, he gives us peace in the midst of our suffering.

Slide 25

Friends, you may descend into the darkest pit of suffering or regret. You may have no peace. You may want your life to end. But don't forget, don't ever forget, that Jesus went down that path and even worse in order to bring you to himself. Others don't understand but he understands. And he teaches us that suffering is actually a part of being a follower of Jesus.

It's not an intrusion. It's not a distraction. It's a vital part of it. That's what Job has not fully yet grasped. Yet, even in Job 3 with all his pain, with all his struggle, he is still not all alone. God is with him, even in God's silence. The man of sorrows, the suffering servant, the prince of peace will use this dark, dark time to teach him & transform us. Sorrow is a part, a normal part of the Christian life. And through it God is making us more and more like his son Jesus. So let God use that darkness. Let God show you the light of Christ in the midst of that darkness. Let God change you and shape you through that darkness.

Church Engagement

To help us know who has participated in today's service would you please either

- Like the sermon on Facebook OR
- Share the sermon on Facebook with someone that you believe would benefit from it. OR
- Fill out a two question survey (approx. 1 minute) at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6D9VPZK>

Song Be still my soul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqgC1tqifV8>

Benediction.

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

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?