

Sunday July 26, 2020

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Prayer

It's good to be together this morning to worship and to be able to add a second service to our meeting this morning. Life's not fair. How old were you when you first heard that? Was it one of the first lessons you learnt, and have you passed it on to your own children? We often feel that life isn't fair, that we don't get the good things we deserve & others don't receive the same punishment that we suffer. Life's not fair. Fairness is one of the top 4 violations that people feel when in crisis (along with trust, safety & power/control). We all make "agreements" in our relationships (and with ourselves) and interact with that set of expectations. When our expectations aren't met, and something bad happens, we often complain that "life's not fair."

Well, if anyone had cause to complain that life wasn't fair it was Job. Well provided for, healthy children, blameless and upright, the greatest man among the people of the East. With life going the way it was he could only have high expectations. And then, everything was turned upside down. Job suffers tremendous hardships even though God considers him blameless. As we look at Job we'll start to see that it's not about the fairness or unfairness of life but how we react who we look to for strength in those times when all we can see is that "life's not fair"

Let's Pray. *Father, we want to come to you this morning to say thank you and to honour you. You are my God, and I will praise you! You are my God, and I will exalt You! Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. We are often so busy that we forget to take the time to sit quietly and remember your love and faithfulness. We forget to say thank you for all the good things you provide in our lives, and yet you continue to love, support and bless us. We cry out that "life's not fair" but forget that you have been through it all before, and that you will give us the strength that we need. Help us to rejoice that you are near, that you walk with us, that we grow and learn and that your love is constant.*

We want to thank you for life, for food that you provide, and for the love of family and friends. Thank you for the beauty of creation, for the joy that it gives us, for the wonder of the sea and sky and for the expanse of space that draws us beyond the definitions of our selves. Thank you for the blessings that you shower over us, despite our foolish ways and sinful pride. Forgive us when we forget and ignore you. Thankyou Father for your unconditional and everlasting love. Help us to grow more and more to be like you. Guide and teach us in all that we say and do and help us to listen with open hearts today as we come before you. Amen

Songs: Sooner Count the Stars https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nw_VAnvAyvs

Crown Him with many crowns <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kc3UnhPHTOo>

Bible Reading – Job 1:1-22 (NIV)

1 In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. 2 He had seven sons and three daughters, 3 and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

4 His sons used to hold feasts in their homes on their birthdays, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. 5 When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would make arrangements for them to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.

6 One day the angels[a] came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan[b] also came with them. 7 The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

8 Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. 10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. 11 But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

12 The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger."

Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

13 One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, 14 a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, 15 and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

16 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

17 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

18 While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, 19 when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

20 At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship 21 and said:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb,
and naked I will depart.

The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away;
may the name of the Lord be praised."

22 In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

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 July – Bible Challenge.** This is the last week of our Bible reading challenge? How have you gone reading the names of God? What did you learn while doing this? Has it affected your walk with the Lord at all? 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.
- **Baptism of Barnabas Brown!** Barnabas is going to be baptised at our evening service tonight. Please pray for Jon and Ang as they make their promises to raise him in the Christian faith.
- **Facemasks.** In recent days governments have been encouraging people to again consider using facemasks when we are not able to social distance. Julie has sewed up another batch of facemasks so if anyone would like one please see Stephen or Julie Hearn. There is no requirement to wear one to Church but if you would feel safer in doing so then please do so.
- **Finances for June**

Offerings – Actual	25, 563
Offerings – Budget	21, 864
Surplus for June	3,699
Surplus for Jan-June	7,180
- **Rhema Sermons.** Do you know that our Church as a radio programme each Sunday morning at 7:30pm on Radio Rhema 99.7FM? If you would like to support this ministry that costs approx. \$50 per week then just make a direct deposit to the church bank account and mark Rhema.
- Stephen is trying to work out **who is accessing our interactive services** and Facebook sermons and who isn't as well as which weeks they are doing that. This information allows us to see if what we are doing is working or whether we should try something else. To help us with this please each week can you either like the sermon or share it with someone if you are going onto Facebook to hear it. Or alternatively can you fill in the one minute survey monkey form whose reference address you will find at the end of this service each week that you complete the interactive service. Thanks.
- **Facebook.** Not part of our Church's Facebook group at the moment? Then why not join us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/563984673762656/>

Kids Talk ~ Quizworx

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_U3Z-dqDB3U&feature=youtu.be

Pastoral Prayer (Jon B)

Heavenly Father, you are the one and true living God. You give us life, breath, and all things. Your ways are not our ways. When we look at the cross of our Saviour we are dumbfounded by how you worked through such horrendous suffering to bring eternal victory. We thank you that in Christ we aren't victims but have become victors by faith in his death and resurrection. We thank you Father that you are the God of all comfort to us. So we come before you with all of our needs and concerns. And we come with all our sadness, sorrow, and grief.

Lord, we look out to our world and pray for the country of Vietnam. We pray for your people there that they would cry out to you in their suffering. We pray they would be comforted by the Comforter. We thank you that your word is going out and can't be chained, not even by a Communist regime. We pray the leaders of the church would be filled with the Holy Spirit and lead with boldness and wisdom.

Lord we pray for our world and the COVID-19 outbreak. We know that you permitted this to happen but we don't know why. We pray for struggling nations and people trying to cope with the pandemic and its ramifications on all of life. Turn many from trusting in dead idols such as money, material possessions, and health to serve the living God. May many people find refuge, security and salvation through your Son. Lord please give your wisdom to scientists so that they can find a vaccine.

God of all grace, we pray for SRE in schools starting up in Term 3. As many schools try and delay its introduction we ask that your will would be done and your kingdom would come in schools throughout this country. We ask that many children who have never heard the good news of Jesus would get to hear. And many would repent and believe in the gospel and become your children.

Lord thanks for the Applebys. Thanks for sustaining them by your grace. Help their HOPE school to be allowed to resume on time. Raise up teachers for the schools. We pray your people in Cambodia would built up and many people would be saved and come to know you.

Lord God, we ask that you would continue to sustain us by your grace. Especially as we take on starting another service. We pray for protection from the evil one who wants to steal and destroy. We commit all our plans to you because you freely give and take away. We ask that you would supply all our needs according to your riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Build your church and save the lost. Help us to place all of our confidence in you, believing that in Jesus Christ we shall be more than conquerors through Him who loves us. IN His name we pray, Amen.

Song. From the Depths of Woe <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFWVVbzK78A>

Sermon. <https://youtu.be/FWF8JzmdF4s>

Gerald Sittser, a professor at Whitworth College in the States was driving home from a family outing when a drunk driver swerved across the centre line and hit his car head on. In an instant he lost his wife of 20 years, his two year old daughter and his mother. Sittser is a good man, making a great contribution to his community. He is a godly man, a Christian man, but being good and godly, even being a follower of Jesus doesn't mean we escape from suffering, from loss, from pain.

And I don't need to tell you that. For you already know that. For we all see it in the news every night. We see it in our family & friends who go through stuff that no one should ever have to go through. We see it in ourselves, as we battle with death, sickness, financial ruin, divorce, loneliness, hatred and pain. Life isn't always fair. Bad things do happen to good people. Life at times truly sucks.

So what is God going to do about it? Not in the future but now. Here and now? And what am I going to do about it? Blame God? Get angry? Lash out at others? Or just grin and bear it? How should we cope with living in a world of unjust suffering?

Slide 2

Well this term we are coming to the book of Job. A Christian classic that deals with these questions head on. God you see doesn't avoid the issue of suffering. And God isn't aloof from our suffering either. For in the book of Job God widens our perspective of suffering. It is not a simplistic treatment. It doesn't give us

easy answers. Over 42 chapters, it wrestles with the issues of pain and suffering without coming up with a pre-packaged answer. But it does point to God's ultimate answer. But that answer is not an argument but a person.

Slide 3

1. Blessed (Job 1:1-5)

And that is where the book starts with a person, a blessed person. *"In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. ² He had seven sons and three daughters, ³ and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East."*

Our story begins with Job from the land of Uz, a place that has all Bible scholars scratching their head. Job is a part of the people of the East, so he doesn't seem to live in Israel, in the Promised Land. More likely in Edom somewhere between Israel and the desert. But Job might not be a Jew but he is certainly a follower of God. He is wise. Three times in the first chapter, once by the author of the book and twice from God's own mouth we hear that he is blameless (not perfect but no obvious faults), upright, a God fearer & an evil hater.

Slide 4

What's more he has a picture perfect family and Job will do his absolute best to keep it that way. *"His sons used to hold feasts in their homes on their birthdays, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would make arrangements for them to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, 'Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.' This was Job's regular custom."*

Even when his kids don't seem to be doing anything wrong, Job is concerned about their spiritual state. They are all enjoying the blessings of living in a godly family and Job wants to remind them that their godliness is based not on their own actions even on Job's really good actions. It is based on the fact that when they sin they need a way where God will forgive that sin. And God has provided them with a way, a sacrifice. Blood is to be shed in their place. Something perfect has to die for them to continue to live this life of blessing. So as they play, Job continues to pray. And by his actions & words he teaches them God's gospel.

Slide 5

You see Job is a good bloke. Actually he is more than that. He is a godly guy. Job is not just an average believer, he is unique. There is no one else like him, a guy who is wise, wealthy & watchful. So the writer is putting down his first marker here. Job deserves to be blessed. And he is. So all is right with the world.

Now is that your view of the world? Do you have a DISNEY view of life? In the end the good should get rewarded? And the bad ought to get punished? Are you like so many that live today believing we are getting better and better as human beings and we are earning for ourselves the prosperity that we so rightly deserve? Do you agree with some of the televangelists that preach that God wants his followers to be healthy, wealthy and wise? Because if you do believe that I am sorry but that is not what this world is really like. For it doesn't take long for Job's ideal world to come crashing down. Job is blessed and then Job is

Slide 6

2. Tested (Job 1:6-22)

For at the same time one half of our TV screen is showing us Job and his family, the other half takes us into the very presence of God, where storms clouds are building. And then suddenly the Lord God takes centre stage. So much so that Yahweh is named 15 times in the next 23 verses. And we are left to wonder if the answer to our question of suffering is less about Job and more about God Himself.

⁶ One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The Lord said to Satan, 'Where have you come from?' Satan answered the LORD, 'From roaming throughout the earth, going to and fro on it.' ⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.'

Now what on earth is happening here? Satan has access to God? God actually talks with the source of all evil? It seems in this cabinet meeting that God is chairing that Satan has some part to play in the proceedings. It seems in this heavenly courtroom that God is the judge & that Satan is a bit like prosecuting attorney. And here God and Satan are arguing over Job.

Slide 7

⁹ 'Does Job fear God for nothing?' Satan replied. ¹⁰ 'Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. ¹¹ But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.'

You see Satan is making a serious accusation here. That Job, this godly man, this God-fearing man may look the goods but he isn't the real thing. He is only in it for what he can get out of it. Of course he serves you God because he knows you will give him good things in return. He is willing to do anything for the rewards, the great rewards you are going to give him but if you take the good stuff away from him, he will become like everyone else.

Slide 8

A number of years ago, I remember seeing a news story about two Australian backpackers in England. They had run out of money, but they had been offered a job by XXXX. You see the Ashes cricket test series was just about to start and they were employed by XXXX to be a living advertising hording outside the ground. Their job was to stand on a stage in front of a huge sign for XXXX and drink beer from 7am in the morning till 7pm at night. When asked by the reporter why they were doing it, they said they were only in it for the perks of the job.

Is Job like that? Only in it for what he can get? And is God like that? Does he have to bribe his followers to get them to do what he wants them to do? If he didn't bribe them, no one would really want to follow God, Satan insinuates. So Lord God let's have a little wager shall we? Let's take the hedge away, lets knock down the wall protecting Job and then we will see how good Job really is and how worthy God is into the bargain. And amazingly God agrees!

Slide 9

¹² "The LORD said to Satan, 'Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.' Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD". Do you get that? Satan has to have permission from God to do anything to Job. Satan has no power other than the power that God has given him. Satan is on a leash. You can go this far, God says, and no further. I give you permission to bring pain and suffering into his life but you can't lay a finger on Job. You can't go one millimetre beyond what I say you can do!

Slide 10

And Satan doesn't! But boy what havoc he wreaks on Job & his family. He sends a Tsunami of pain into this good man's life. Wave after wave pounds this man mercilessly. Firstly the Sabeans (human beings) steal all Job's oxen and donkeys and kill all but one of the servants looking after them. Then a natural disaster, was it lightning, a volcano or a bushfire, we don't know, come directly from heaven and burns up all the sheep and all but one of the servants looking after them. Then more evil men attack his camels, steal them all and kill his servants looking after them except one and then if life couldn't get any worse, it does.

Slide 11

“While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, ‘Your sons & daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the eldest brother’s house, ¹⁹when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!’”

Wow. Job is now bankrupt and bereft. It’s all gone. Everything is gone. His world has collapsed in one day. In a single day. That’s how quick it can happen. And that’s true of life isn’t it? A plane flies into a building, everything changes instantly. A car accident, a test for cancer, a routine ultrasound and our world collapses, straight away.

Slide 12

But Job’s first reaction is amazing. Astonishing. *“At this, Job got up & tore his robe & shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹and said: ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I shall depart.^[c] The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.’ ²²In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.”*

Job passes his test. Notice Job’s first instinct is to look to his God. Job will worship God even if he is not blessed, even if everything is taken away. And what’s more he doesn’t know what has been happening in the heavenly courtroom. He has no idea of the full story. But he knows enough to believe that God is still sovereign. The Lord has given. The Lord now has taken away. The Lord is still worthy of his worship.

Slide 13

Do we believe that? When our world is turned upside down, do we believe that God is still in control? For suffering is a real faith tester. Pain, death, disease are real faith stretchers. And the book of Job in one way makes faith easier & in another way makes it harder. Satan is real, he wants to destroy. He has power, that’s what these chapters are all about. He is like a roaring lion looking to devour. But Satan is not in control. People are not in control. Natural disasters are not in control. God is still in control. He is still on the throne.

And really it cannot be anything else. If Satan is in control we are doomed for destruction and we are putty in his hands. If chance matters, there is no rhyme or reason for life. But if God is in control, if God is the boss, it doesn’t help us knowing the reason why? Why has he allowed this to happen to me? But if we know that God is good, gracious, merciful, loving then even if we don’t know why we can still put our trust in the who. In God we can trust.

Slide 14

3. Cursed (2:1-9)

That’s what Job does at the end of chapter 1, he passes the test but it gets worse, much worse. He is about to be cursed. War is being waged and Job himself is the battleground. So we next read Satan again comes into God’s presence & again God points out his servant Job. *“Job still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason.”* God holds Satan responsible. So God is sovereign but Satan is still responsible.

But Satan has one last crack at Job. ⁴*‘Skin for skin!’ Satan replied. ‘A man will give all he has for his own life. ⁵But now stretch out your hand & strike his flesh and bones & he will surely curse you to your face.’* God you haven’t allowed me to hit Job where it really hurts. His health! Job only cares about himself. But take his health away then he will crumble to pieces. His money and his family is what he has but let’s have a go at who he is, really.

Slide 15

⁶*“The LORD said to Satan, ‘Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.’”* So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD & afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. ⁸*Then Job took a piece of broken pottery & scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.”*

Slide 16

Now Job has lost everything. His wealth and his health, his family & his community standing. He's left on the rubbish heap. Suffering a complete breakdown of his body. It is so bad that as the chapters of Job go on we hear, his symptoms are aching, rotting bones (30:17), dark (and peeling) skin (30:28, 30), wart-like eruptions (7:5), anorexia (19:20), fever (30:30), depression (7:16; 30:15), insomnia (7:4), nightmares (7:14), putrid breath (19:17; cf. 17:1), failing vision (16:16), rotting teeth (19:20). Little wonder when Job's friends first meet him at the close of this chapter, "they could hardly recognize him" (2:12)!

And if that isn't enough, the one thing that Job has still going for him, his wife, tells him to curse God. She has lost everything that he has lost & she can't cope. She wants the night mare to end. And so her solution is to curse God. That's the only option you have left she says to Job. Satan tries one last thing, temptation. Get the one Job loves to lead him astray.

So let's sit with Job just for a moment. His suffering is horrendous. Unbelievable. Soul destroying. And he doesn't deserve this, no not at all. That was made clear at the start. But he still has to endure the dark night of the soul. He still has to walk through the valley of the shadow of death. He still has to live in a dark, dark world. And he is all alone.

And I don't know about you but I know people that have been in similar places. I have sat with people who have lost their three year old when he was drowned in their pool, whose family was all killed in the genocide of Rwanda. Who have lost the love of their life. Who have been unjustly sent to prison for a decade for a crime they didn't commit. Whose bodies have been ravaged by cancer, who have spent years in a Japanese POW camp.

Life is not fair. God's shadow does fall over us. And it is God's shadow. He could stop it. He could have kept the hedge around us but for some reason, some inexplicable reason, he doesn't. So what do we do at that time? Curse God? Listen to Satan's temptation?

Slide 17

4. Trusted (Job 1:20-2:10)

Somehow, somehow Job doesn't go down that road. He doesn't curse, he blesses. He trusts God. Where else is there to go when you have the words of eternal life, the disciples said when Jesus asked if they too were going to walk away from Him. And Job accepts the good from God and the trouble from God. He realizes that naked he came from his mother's womb and naked he will depart. He knows the Lord gives and the Lord takes away.

Blessed be the name of the Lord. Even if I have nothing I will still praise the name of the Lord my God. Job won't sin by charging God with wrongdoing. Job did not sin in what he said & what he did. Satan was wrong. God is worthy of our worship even if he is the only thing you have. Actually especially if he is the only thing you have. For if you have God, you have all that you need. If you have God then you will find that he & He alone will satisfy you fully.

We see in these chapters that Job is a real believer, he is not just a fair weather friend. Job has faith, real faith in that he is willing to trust God even in the dark, even when everything, everything has been taken away from him. Job knows that no matter what happens to him God is still worthy of his trust, his praise, his worship, his whole life.

Slide 18

Job 1-2 starts with the Bible saying to us, let's talk about Job. But once we have looked at Job I think we need to move the discussion on and say, let's now talk about us? Just as Satan demanded to have Job to sift and to test him, doesn't he also ask God for the option to do the same with the Apostle Peter? And

Jesus doesn't say No my Father has forbidden Satan to do this to my friend Peter. Instead he says *"I have prayed for you & when you have turned again, come back and strengthen the brothers"* (Luke 22:31-32).

And doesn't Peter go on to say in his first letter "that trials are necessary "So that our faith is proved genuine". And later on doesn't he warn us that "your adversary the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." And doesn't he call on the Christians to "resist him, firm in your faith."

We have a dangerous enemy who is going to turn his sights on us. Job is not the only one who will suffer while innocent. You and I might be next in the firing line. So how are we going to go with our examination? What will happen to us when we are fully tested? Have we started off where Job started as men and women who are blameless & upright? Do we currently fear God and shun evil? How have we gone with the temptations that have come our way recently? Are we looking for forgiveness and our salvation in the innocent blood that has been shed on our behalf by our heavenly father?

Slide 19

You see that is the difference between us and Job. Job lived before the life and death of Jesus and we live after the cross. We live after the book of Job was written and after the book of Job was fulfilled. For the story of Job is a shadow of the greater story of Jesus Christ.

For at just the right time, God sent to this world a man named Jesus, who was completely blameless and upright, who feared God and shunned evil. The blessing of God's Spirit was placed upon him and immediately the Satan confronted him in the desert and tempted him to turn away from God in reward for riches and power and praise and Jesus said no.

And remember at the end of his life, Satan levelled horrible accusations against him. The people around him rejected him and he received at the hand of God the most terrible of all suffering. Death on a cross. The punishment of God for the sins of the world on his body. He was wounded for our transgression. But he too didn't curse God, he received God's curses on our behalf & he committed himself to God. Father receive my spirit was his final words.

God told Satan to spare Job's life but God did not spare his only son's life. He suffered the dark night of the soul, he went to hell for our sins and in the midst of all of this he trusted and worshipped God. And on the third day he rises again and defeats the devil and he triumphs over death, and he ensures that his followers won't go to hell.

This Jesus is available to us when we suffer. This Jesus shows us that God can bring good even out of evil. This Jesus can give us the strength to go through anything this world throws at us. This Jesus is worthy of our trust and worship even if he is all that we have got. Because in the end he is all that we need. And he will satisfy us fully now & into the future.

Slide 20

In his book, *A Grace Disguised*, Gerald Sittser says: *"The accident itself bewilders me today as much as it did three years ago. Much good has come out of it, but all the good in the world will never make the accident itself good. It remains a horrible, tragic and evil event to me. Yet the grief I feel is sweet as well as bitter. I still have a sorrowful soul; yet I wake up each morning joyful, eager for what the new day will bring. Never have I felt as much pain as I have in the last three years; yet never have I experienced as much pleasure in simply being alive ... never have I felt so broken; yet never have I felt so whole . . . Never have I been so aware of my weaknesses & vulnerability ; yet never have I been so content & felt so strong*

Slide 21

Above all, I have become aware of the power of God's grace and my need for it. My soul has grown because it has been awakened to the goodness and love of God. God has been present in my life these past three

years. God will continue to be present to the end of my life and through all eternity. God is growing my soul, making it bigger and filling it with himself.” Do you want your soul filled with God? Then look to the one whose job is to take you to God. Your Lord and Saviour Jesus.

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 I have a shelter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvddcxRzZb4>

OR Just a closer walk with thee

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6Ks49apfIE>

Benediction.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:3-9).

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 give one or two people a call. Who might your ring now?