

# Sunday October 24, 2021

## Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

### Welcome & Prayer (Paul B)

Good morning and welcome to church for this week. In the movie 127 hours American Mountaineer Aron Ralston goes hiking on his own in Utah's Canyonlands National Park. Ralston Falls into a canyon knocking a boulder over which traps his right arm. Stuck with no one to help him, his only supplies include a video camera, 300mls of water and pocketknife. After desperately trying to free himself, Ralston concludes that the only way to escape is to cut off the part of his arm that is trapped, which he does. As gross as it sounds, the story shows just how much human beings can endure when faced with death, we will do anything to save our lives.

In Mark 9 Jesus is teaching his disciples of the cost of following him. And though you hear about being willing to die for Jesus, that's not what the focus is here. As verse 43 states, are we willing to cut off our hands to gain eternal life? Do we take sin that seriously, that we'd change aspects of our lives to remove sin? Is following Jesus that precious to us? In Mark 9 today we see that the road of discipleship is a road marked with humility selflessness, saltiness and most importantly one that Jesus himself is on.

### Song – Rejoice the Lord is King

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| 1. Rejoice, the Lord is King!<br>Your Lord and King adore!<br>Mortals, give thanks and sing<br>And triumph evermore. | 2. The Lord, the Saviour, reigns,<br>The God of truth and love.<br>When he had purged our stains,<br>He took his seat above. |
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| Chorus. Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice!<br>Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!<br>Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice!<br>Rejoice, again I say, rejoice! | 3. His kingdom cannot fail;<br>He rules o'er earth and heav'n.<br>The keys of death and hell<br>To Christ the Lord are giv'n. |
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### Bible Reading – Mark 9:33-41 (NIV)

<sup>33</sup> They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" <sup>34</sup> But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

<sup>35</sup> Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." <sup>36</sup> He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." <sup>38</sup> "Teacher," said John, "we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us." <sup>39</sup> "Do not stop him," Jesus said. "For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, <sup>40</sup> for whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward."

### Announcements for 31<sup>st</sup> October

**Opening Up.** Churches have been given the privilege (and responsibility) of being one of the few places where vaccinated and unvaccinated people can congregate together. To help do this in a safe way we have provided extra space in the front three rows of the Church for those who consider themselves more vulnerable. There will be wider spaces and less interaction. We have also updated our COVID safe plans to follow all new advice. The main changes are that the government wants less emphasis on disinfecting and

more on ventilation. If you are not ready to come back to Church, we will continue to provide a range of services for you but we would love to see you back with us as soon as you feel able.

**Focus for the month – Generosity.** *Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup> and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”* So as we conclude our focus on generosity how can we be generous to those who may not ever be generous back to us? The poor? The young? The aged? Unbelievers overseas? How wonderful it would be for them to hear the gospel of grace and for it to be provided for them out of the generous hearts of believers they may never ever meet?

**Pledges for our future ministry facilities.** If for any reason you have forgotten to put in your pledge form to help upgrade our Ministry Facilities at Charlestown, then you could place it in the box near the door TODAY. Our Building Working Group is meeting tomorrow so please keep this work in your prayers.

**ZOOM Prayer time.** Every Monday night the Church meets via ZOOM to pray. It is so important that pray, both individually and collectively for each other, our church and our nation at this time.

**Combined church picnic.** Everyone is invited from all our church services to enjoy a well needed catch-up over a picnic lunch at Pelican Foreshore on Sunday 7th November at 12.30pm. Bring your own lunch, drinks, chairs/rug, sun protection, swimming gear and play equipment (soccer balls, cricket gear, etc). The current limit for outdoor gatherings is 50 (including children) and that all people 16 years and over need to be double vaccinated. To enable us to meet together, we will meet as 2 groups at Pelican Foreshore in groups up to 50 people. Group 1: Families with children aged 0-12 (meet near playground). Group 2: Young adults, adults and families with high school aged kids (meet closer to the water between carpark and playground). This is a guide so feel free to join the group that suits you best and set up your picnic group in the best area nearby for the weather of the day. Contact Suzie for more details or any questions.

**Date for your diary.** Gather Round, a welcome back carols event on Saturday 4th December, more details to come

**Kids Spot:** We had a great first week back at Kids church last week and for the next 2 weeks we are finishing our lessons in the book of Revelation we started in term 3. This week we are looking Revelation 3:14-22 and that the church there was lukewarm, neither hot nor cold. We will learn that when the church does not act like Jesus, we are no good to anyone! Question of the week: What are ways we can stand out as different in our world because we love Jesus?

**Young Families Group.** On Wednesdays we are starting a gospel community for young families! It will be a short Bible study and prayer over Zoom from 7:30-8:30pm. The plan at this stage will be to meet on Zoom two Wednesdays in a row and third week meet in a park somewhere on Saturday morning to hang out with kids! We will be looking at Mark’s Gospel together. See Jon for more details.

## Song – Grace Awaiting me

1. I will see the world to come  
For one has suffered in my place  
Now there is grace awaiting me, awaiting me.  
Judgement's done, atonement's made  
The ransom's paid, no guilt remains  
Now there is grace awaiting me, awaiting me!  
Grace - a welcome from the Father  
Grace - forgiveness full and free  
Grace - that's greater than our failings  
Oh there is grace awaiting me

Chorus. Grace - a welcome from the Father  
Grace - forgiveness full and free  
Grace - that's greater than our failings  
Oh there is grace awaiting me

Bridge. Jesus you have loved and bought me  
By your death my debts are paid  
I am yours, I stand beside you  
Fearless face the coming day.

2. I take comfort in the hope  
Of the thief upon the cross

3. I will see the world to come  
Despite the sin that I have done

For I am worthy of as little love as he.  
Like this man, I won't despair  
For life's ahead, what joy we'll share  
Now there is grace awaiting me, awaiting me!

For there is grace awaiting me, awaiting me.  
All who call upon the Lord  
Will rise to life with peace assured  
For there is grace awaiting me, awaiting me.

Chorus

## Pastoral Prayer Points

**Psalm 122:** "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! "May they be secure who love you! Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!" (vv. 6-7). This isn't a call to pray for peace in the Middle East (although that's a good thing to do!). This psalm is a call to pray for the church of Jesus Christ. It's a prayer the vision in verses 1-5 will be realised in the church. Pray that our own local church would be a place where God is present in His forgiving grace; where men and women frightened by a dangerous world can find safety and security in Christ and with His people.

**Pray for Myanmar (Burma).** Pray for peace and justice to reign in an impoverished land whose ethnically diverse peoples have suffered greatly. Pray for effective evangelism that would penetrate the hearts of a staunchly Buddhist majority. Pray for those believers who face tremendous harassment and persecution for their Christian faith.

**Pray for the Word to do its work** – Pray for the speakers and hearers of God's word. Pray the word would be spoken with boldness and clarity. Pray the hearers would respond to the word with faith and repentance; the church would be built up and God would be gloried.

**Pray for persons and families** - Pray for children who started back at school in NSW and ACT. Pray for teachers and students affected by a disrupted education. Ask God to help them all finish the year well, especially those finishing year 12!

**Pray for the Building Working Group** – Pray God would continue to guide them and decisions would be made that serve to grow God's kingdom in Charlestown. Thank God for all the pledges given recently.

## Bible Reading – Mark 9:42-50 (NIV)

<sup>42</sup> "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. <sup>[44]</sup> <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. <sup>[46]</sup> <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup> where;

"the worms that eat them do not die,  
and the fire is not quenched."

<sup>49</sup> Everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup> "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other."

## Sermon –On the road to the SHOPS (Stephen T)

The American author, Robert Frost wrote these famous words:

"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, And sorry I could not travel both  
I took the one less travelled by, And that has made all the difference."

Over the last couple of chapters, Jesus has been telling his disciples to take the road less travelled. Yes, there are the crowds who want him to take the road of power, of position, of prominence. But Jesus is going down the road to the cross. And he said just a while back, "if you want to be my disciples you must deny yourself, take up the cross and follow me." We also must take the road less travelled. We must travel down the path that Jesus is going on.

Slide 2

So, what does that road look like in practical terms? What sort of behaviour will it mean for you & I if we were to take up the cross? Where is it going to take us? What changes will it mean for my life and yours? Well Jesus picks up these questions at the end of chapter 9. He talks about 5 qualities that he wants us to build into our lives. And to help us try & remember these 5 qualities, I've used their first letters to construct a word... SHOPS. We are taking the road to the SHOPS. Where the

Slide 3

### 1. S stands for SERVICE (verses 33-35)

<sup>33</sup> "They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" <sup>34</sup> But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest."

Now if they had been discussing how to have a better prayer life, or how to serve the Lord better, they would have been eager to tell Jesus about that. They would have said, "Lord, we just had the greatest discussion! Now we know how to pray better, & now we know how to serve you more completely." They would have been anxious to tell Him about that. But they kept silent because they had argued about which of them was the greatest.

Slide 4

<sup>35</sup> "Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." The road less travelled looks very different to the road that everyone else is travelling. For the Kingdom of God operates on a completely different paradigm to the kingdoms of this world. Plato famously said, "How can a man be happy when he has to serve someone?" Jesus says you will find God's happiness when you serve another. Our world says serve us. God's word says service.

Slide 5

In the words of Rick Warren, it is time for us to take off the bib and put on the apron. The way of Jesus is not to be a spoilt child demanding that we are the centre of attention. Instead, we don our aprons and serve others. Not so that we get what we want. You know we might serve our family so that we can have a positive experience at home. We might serve our Church so that we can have all of our families' needs satisfied.

No. we are following Jesus. Who was God Himself but was willing to leave heaven and come to earth. He took on flesh and even became a servant of all because that is what the great ones do. They put the needs of others before their own needs.

Friends, we need to get our head around this. The way up is down. The way to get is to give. The way to be first is to be last. The way to greatness is to travel down the road less travelled. The road that Jesus is on.

Slide 6

Is that the road you are on? Do you look around and think what can I do for others or what can they do for me? For the great ones in this congregation are not the ones up front, not the ones with the position or the status but the one who locks up and is the last to leave, who buys the disposable plates and cups, who vacuums the floor & cleans the toilet, who makes those encouraging phone calls, who spends their time in prayer for others. The road less travelled is marked by service of others. The road to the SHOPS involves S for service &

Slide 7

### 2. H for Humility (verses 36-7)

(Jesus) *“took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them*  
<sup>37</sup> *“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”*

Slide 8

What Jesus is saying is that the way we receive a child is the way that we receive our King, our Heavenly Father. If we humble ourselves and get down to the child's level, if we get down to the level of the one whose status is rock bottom, then we find ourselves in the right posture, the right position to meet our God.

For the status of the child in Jesus' days was very different to the status of a child today. Today some children rule the roost, they control all the comings and goings of a family. But in Jesus day they had no status, no say, no power, no influence. They were the lowest of the low. So, to welcome a little child might be like today welcoming a homeless person or an elderly person with dementia or a person with COVID.

Because we are on the road that Jesus took, a road less travelled. When you think about it, Jesus was the biggest person in the universe who once became small enough to learn what it meant to be a human being. He put on the apron and picked up the towel and washed his disciple's feet. He touched the leper, received little children, even cared for the widow and orphan. But by making himself nothing, by travelling the road less travelled, the road to the SHOPS, Jesus was crucified, died and buried but on the third day was raised to life and he is now seated at the right hand of God in heaven.

If we want to be great in God's eyes, we need to be the servant and we need to be humble. But that is hard to do isn't it, really hard! So how are we going to keep going on that road, when everyone else seems to be going in the opposite direction?

Slide 9

Dr. Viktor Frankl was an Austrian physician who was imprisoned in one of Hitler's death camps. He and his fellow Jewish people suffered unbelievable atrocities. Everything about their living and working conditions were deplorable. Dr. Frankl offered what little medical help he could to the sick and dying. Over time, he discovered a unique phenomenon that he recorded in his book *Man's Search for Meaning*. He said those people who kept their strength & sanity the longest were those who tried to help other prisoners and shared what little they had. Their physical & mental condition seemed strengthened by their friendliness, compassion & focus on something other than themselves. The conclusion was that serving others energizes, contrary to the great fear that resources will be depleted if we help others.

Slide 10

When we serve, we open ourselves up to what God wants to do in our life. We give and yet we get more from him than we give out. We humble ourselves and there in front of us we see Jesus with the basin and the towel. We might be going on the road less travelled, the road to the SHOPS but Jesus is with us every step of the way.

### **3. Serving, Humility and thirdly O for Openness (Verses 38-41)**

For so often when we are on that long and windy road, we are suspicious of what everyone else is doing. If they are not from our Church, our tribe, our group, then we see them as a threat. They can't be on God's team or they would have joined us. And we forget that we are to join God on his team not ask God to join us on our team. And so there needs to be an openness to what God is doing all around us.

Slide 11

And the disciples still hadn't worked this one out. Which is why we next read in Mark's gospel that one of the disciples, John, approaches Jesus and says, <sup>38</sup> *“Teacher... we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.”* <sup>39</sup> *“Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, <sup>40</sup> for whoever is not against us is for us.”*

You see the problem, don't you? We know that our motives are good. We know that we are trying to serve Christ, but them, they seem to do things differently to us. They have their own way, their own brand, their own denomination, their own organisational structure. We know that our way is the right way. And we begin to think that our way is also the only way.

Slide 12

You know some people do evangelism very differently to the way we do things. Some people worship God in a way that we don't particularly like. Some people pray differently, do baptism differently, even preach differently. So we become suspicious of them. But Jesus says we need to be open to what others are doing in his name. "Wait a second guys, no one who does a miracle in my name, no one who becomes a Christian through hearing the gospel of the Lord Jesus, no one who has seen God's Holy Spirit move powerfully in their life can after that say anything bad about me. In fact *"I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward."*

Slide 13

I think that it is striking that in Mark's gospel Jesus regularly commends ordinary, humble, compassionate acts of Christian service like giving someone a cup of water. Peter's mother-in-law cooks a meal, Levi opens up his home, the poor widow shares her two copper coins, a woman places perfume on Jesus' feet. Simple, caring actions that God says he notices and those who do them will ultimately be rewarded. So if God is going to reward them, we should be willing to back them. So don't hinder them, help them. Don't restrain them, rejoice with them. Don't feel ill will to those who are your brothers and sisters in Christ.

For we are not the only person on the road less travelled. It is not completely empty. Sure, the highway to hell is packed but the road to heaven still has plenty of people on it. They just don't always look like us or always speak like us or eat like us or worship like us. So, we need to be serving, humble, open to what God is doing all around us & fourthly we need

Slide 14

#### **4. P is for Protect (verse 42-48)**

<sup>42</sup> *"If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea."*

The road less travelled is a road where you protect others from harm, especially these little ones. These fellow believers. Those who are vulnerable to what is going on all around them. We don't want to expose them to sin, our sin or anyone else's sin. We don't want for them to stumble. This is a serious thing. It would be even better for us to have put on a pair of cement shoes and end up at the bottom of the ocean than to hurt, to hinder, to cause one of our brothers and sisters in Christ to sin.

Slide 15

I wonder if you have thought about recently? Our behaviour can be a stumbling block for others people's faith or a stepping stone. Our harsh words, our selfish behaviour, our lack of forgiveness can cause someone to say to themselves, "if that is how a Christian is going to behave, I want to have nothing to do with Jesus." And if we are leaders in the Church, in a way it's worse, because we can do things that will touch more people than most.

Friends, we have spent the last 18 months protecting ourselves and others from COVID. But how often have we protected others from our sin? What strategies have you put in place this morning so that your sin which is far more infectious than COVID would not spread from you to others. We who are on the road less travelled, need to be serious about sin. Because there are little ones that are vulnerable and because we ourselves are vulnerable.

Slide 16

<sup>43</sup> *"If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out."* <sup>[44]</sup> <sup>45</sup> *And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off.*

*It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. [46] 47 And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, 48 where "the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched."*

You see a saving faith is a fighting faith. Sin is not going to give in without a fight. But what Jesus is calling for is not physical mutilation but spiritual mortification, the cutting off of all harmful practices to protect oneself from the evil one. So, we are willing to lose our hand, our foot, even our sight to stay on the road less travelled. You see the hand symbolises what we do, the foot where we go and the eye what we see. And together the idea is that we will do anything and everything in order to miss out on hell.

Slide 17

For hell is real and hell is horrible. It is like being eternally set alight, eternally being eaten away, eternally in torment and pain, eternally separated from God and all that is good. And so it would be better to live without a hand than to end up in hell. Live without sight or legs than to end up away from God. So we need to deal drastically with our sin. We need to endure the pain of getting rid of our sin. We need to do anything we can to avoid sin.

It is like getting gangrene in your foot. If it's not amputated, the gangrene infection will eventually take over the body and kill it. This is what Jesus is saying... If you have sin in your life, or if you have a character defect that's not consistent of a follower of Christ, you have to undergo surgery. That "thing" must be removed. The infection must be cut out. You must do whatever is necessary to get that imperfection out of your life.

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Aron Ralston was hiking alone in a Utah canyon when his right arm became pinned beneath an 800-pound boulder. After being trapped for five and a half days, without being found, he used a dull pocket knife to cut off his arm. He then abseiled nearly 70 feet and hiked for three hours before he was rescued by a helicopter.

Incredible, isn't it? If you were in the same predicament with the same set of circumstances, would you be able to do what Mr. Ralston did? It would be a very difficult thing to lose a limb. But consider the alternative. Either lose a limb, or keep it and die. Which choice would you make? Well it is the same decision we make each day with sin. Either get rid of the sin, no matter what the pain or see it slowly but surely eat away at you.

Slide 19

We've all met people who say they are Christians but whose life is characterised by adultery, by greed, by corruption, by lies. They have fooled themselves but they won't fool God. And Jesus is saying to them, as he is saying to us, nothing is too precious to sacrifice. So friends what sin are you working on right now? Greed? Pride? Love of money? Love of house? Lying? Slander? Adultery? Pornography? Gluttony? Sloth? Overwork? Envy?

I can assure you that we all need to be working on one of these sins, if not more. And so, if we are walking on the road less travelled, if we are following Jesus down that road, we can ask him for help. We can look to him for strength. We can model ourselves on what he does. And we can remind ourselves of the dangers of not doing anything about these sins. And when we fall and fail, as we all inevitably will do, we can look to the cross that Jesus is carrying before us and remind ourselves he died to forgive us that sin. But he doesn't want us to be dragged down by that sin any longer.

Slide 20

So, if your mobile phone causes you to sin, throw it away, if your wifi causes you to sin rip it out. If your credit card causes you to sin, cut it up and if your money or investments cause you to sin give them away.

It is better to lose these things than to end up in hell. On the road less travelled, on the way to the SHOPS as we follow our Lord Jesus we are meant to be

Slide 21

**5. Serving, humility, open, protecting and lastly salty. (Verses 49-51)**

On the way to the shops don't forget to pick up the salt. Make sure that your life is distinctive not bland. Make sure it preserves God's ways in the world not destroys it. For Mark ends our chapter with three sayings all about salt.

<sup>49</sup> *"Everyone will be salted with fire."* Just as any OT sacrifice must be salted before given over to the flames. So we are to be living sacrifices, given totally to God, being salt and light to all around us. Suffering is a part of going along the path less travelled. Because we follow a suffering servant. So suffering is not to be avoided, it is the path of glory. God's glory and ultimately our glory.

<sup>50</sup> *"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again?"* The Jews have a saying "the world cannot survive without salt." And we are the salt of the world. And the world needs us. If the Church, if we Christians lose our saltiness, there is no other way to change the world. So, we need to be serious about being the salt, the preserving agent the people around us and our society desperately need. Especially today.

So, *"Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other."* Serve each other, don't act as sovereigns over one another. Be self-deprecating not showy when you mix with those around you. Don't be suspicious of other Christians, be sure they are serving their Lord in all that they do. Don't sin but be serious about protecting the people around you. And finally be like a bag of salt rather than a container of sugar.

Slide 22

Sugar is used, so often like salt, to flavour things that we eat and drink. But they are not interchangeable, as they have different purposes. Sugar is used to sweeten, or perhaps more accurately, to mask the flavours that are bitter, sour, or even starting to spoil. In comparison, salt brings out the flavours of the food, not masking them as much as preserving them, and emphasizing that, which is good.

If we are salty the Lord can use us to bring out the best all around us. He can help persevere the things of faith when society turns rotten. We don't just sugar coat everything, we highlight what the Lord is doing all around us through the work of his Holy Spirit.

Slide 23

I was reading recently about an Egyptian architect who was commissioned by one of the Pharaohs to build a lighthouse at the mouth of the Nile. On a piece of rock that was duly selected, Cnidus, the architect, erected a fine edifice. Engraved upon the cement covering the outside of the lighthouse was the name Pharaoh. But do you know that in a few years the effect of wind and rain had worn the cement away and Pharaoh's name had vanished. Then it was discovered that the wily Cnidus had engraved his own name in the masonry beneath. Really, he hadn't done it for Pharaoh he had done it for himself.

Slide 24

Likewise, even Christian work may be done outwardly for the glory of God; but, when the underlying motive is laid bare, our own glory often turns out to be the real aim. So don't be like that. Travel the road less travelled. Go down the path to the SHOPS. Live lives of service, humility, openness, Protection and saltiness.

In other words, follow the path of Jesus all the way to the cross. And don't do this so that you might get the glory, because to be honest there is not much glory on that road. Do it so that God might get the glory. Do it out of a thankfulness for what Jesus has done for you, that you know there is nothing more important



in life, there is nothing too precious not to sacrifice and there is nothing that will give God more glory and praise than if we go down the road less travelled. Following our Saviour who travelled down that road to the cross and then onwards onto glory.

## Song – All I have is Christ

1. I once was lost in darkest night  
Yet thought I knew the way  
The sin that promised joy and life  
Had led me to the grave  
I had no hope that You would own  
A rebel to Your will  
And if You had not loved me first  
I would refuse You still

Chorus  
Hallelujah! All I have is Christ  
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life

2. But as I ran my hell-bound race  
Indifferent to the cost  
You looked upon my helpless state  
And led me to the cross  
And I beheld God's love displayed  
You suffered in my place  
You bore the wrath reserved for me  
Now all I know is grace

3. Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone  
And live so all might see  
The strength to follow Your commands  
Could never come from me  
O Father, use my ransomed life  
In any way You choose  
And let my song forever be  
My only boast is You

## Benediction (Paul B)

Father, we thank you for this time to dig into your Word, the praise you through song, to petition you through prayer, and to be challenge through your Spirit through your Word. We pray that we would all consider the marks and cost of discipleship, not just in the ultimate way of giving our lives for Jesus, but also in the sense of being humble, in the sense of service to each other and in the sense of standing out in a world that doesn't know you or love you. But most of all, let us remember that Jesus has gone before us on this path and is there with us as he has promised. We thank you for this time together and as we go out this week let us display these marks of discipleship in all we do and to all we meet. In Jesus Name, Amen.

## Morning Tea

Why not give someone (who might have had to miss Church) a call and have a cuppa together?