

Sunday July 31, 2022

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Prayer

As it was written in Deuteronomy let us come and: “*Proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribing greatness to our God! “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he*”. Let’s pray

Dear God and Father, We are here today. Before you, in awe of you. Humble us so that we can fully appreciate who you are. We want to proclaim your name, to honour you, to recognise that you are just, that your ways, so far above our own, are perfect. All the things that you have made adore you and recognise your right to reign over creation. We want to come and worship you, praise you and thank you for redeeming us. As we meet together this morning, heal us, lift us up, give us the courage and confidence to serve you.

So many times we feel powerless and alone, when it’s not you that’s moved, but us. Forgive us. When we don’t get answers quickly, or the answers we want. When that leads to confusion and doubt. Forgive us. When we forget the blessings that you have given us and concentrate instead on what we think we’re missing out on. Forgive us. Give us a spirit of patience and a willingness to listen to you. You have promised that even in the dark and lonely times you will be there, shining your light for us. Thankyou.

Strengthen us so that we can support others when they feel powerless. As we come to you this morning, open our hearts and minds so that we can recognise you, be reminded of your promises and understand your will for each of us. In Jesus’ name. Amen

Song –Let your kingdom come [Let Your Kingdom Come - Sovereign Grace -](#)

[YouTube](#)

1. Your glorious cause, O God
Engages our hearts
May Jesus Christ be known
Wherever we are
We ask not for ourselves, but for Your renown
The cross has saved us so we pray
Your kingdom come

2. Give us Your strength, O God
And courage to speak
Perform Your wondrous deeds
Through those who are weak
Lord use us as You want, whatever the test
By grace we'll preach Your gospel
Till our dying breath

Chorus

*Let Your kingdom come
Let Your will be done
So that everyone might know Your Name
Let Your song be heard everywhere on earth
Till Your sovereign work on earth is done
Let Your kingdom come*

Bible Reading – Revelation 8:1-13(NIV)

“When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.² And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. ³ Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God’s people, on the golden altar in front of the throne. ⁴ The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God’s people, went up before God from the angel’s hand. ⁵ Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire

from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

⁶ Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.⁷ The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. ⁸ The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, ⁹ a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. ¹⁰ The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water— ¹¹ the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter. ¹² The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night. ¹³ As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in mid-air call out in a loud voice: “Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!”

Announcements

COVID. With some many COVID cases being recorded in our area the Church is planning to adopt many of the measures that we used earlier in the pandemic. So until further notice

- We will suspend morning tea/supper
- We will open windows and doors during our Church services to keep a good airflow (so bring warm clothing!)
- We are asking everyone who is sick at all to stay at home and away from Church activities.
- We will run all our Church wide committee meetings on ZOOM.
- Home groups are going to consider whether they will continue to meet in person or revert back to ZOOM.
- And maybe we should all consider whether we will wear masks when we come to Church?

And please be diligent in prayer for our brothers and sisters with COVID. For many their cases are mild, praise God. But others have found the going particularly tough and need God's help, strength and presence to make it through.

Recharge conference, A conference for men in the Hunter Valley. Saturday, 10th September, 2022. 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Location: Grace Evangelical Church, 344- 348 Lake Rd., Glendale. Speaker, Simon Manchester, John 14, 15 &16, for "on ocean of encouragement". Link for more details and to register: <https://www.hgm.org.au/recharge>. Any enquiries, Martin, 0421749751. Early bird tickets available until 31st July.

Focus for July – Hospitality. How do we show hospitality during a pandemic? Well we have been down that path a lot in the last couple of years. We phone more. We use video conversations. We meet outdoors in parks or coffee shops. We engage more with others rather than withdraw. And we think especially of those who don't have the connections with others and concentrate on them.

Lily Finn. Today will be Lily's last Sunday with us. She and her family are moving to Brisbane after over 20 years with us at Redhead, Charlestown and Swansea Churches in the next week or so. Please pray that she might settle in well and find a Church where she will be able to encourage the believers there (as she has with us) and she will be encouraged by them as well.

JOY. The next JOY will be on this Friday from 10-11am at the 16footers. All welcome.

Finances (if room)

Budgeted Offerings for June	\$26,667
Actual Offerings for June	\$26,103
Deficit for June	\$564
Deficit for Jan- June	\$677

Kids Spot: We continue our lessons from Luke and are learning from chapter 3: 1-20 where John the Baptist prepares his people to meet the Saviour of the world. He told people to say sorry and turn away from doing bad things. Question of the week: How do we know from this passage that Jesus is the Saviour God promised would come?

Prayer Points for 31st July 2022

Psalm 24:3: “Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?”

Pray for Sri Lanka: Pray for physical and relational healing after a generation of civil war. Pray for the freedom of religious expression without proposed anti-conversion laws. Pray for growth and maturity for the indigenous Church.

Pray for our government: “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions...” –1 Tim 2:1-2a

“You shall have no other gods before me”: Lord help us to resist the gods of this world - the constant temptations that war against our hearts and minds. By your Spirit, renew us day by day, that we may not only resist false gods, but actively seek after you, the True God, with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Lily Finn & family. Please pray that she might settle in well and find a Church where she will be able to encourage the believers there (as she has with us) and she will be encouraged by them as well.

Bible Reading – Revelation 9:1-21

9 The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. 2 When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. 3 And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. 4 They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes. 6 During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them. 7 The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. 8 Their hair was like women’s hair, and their teeth were like lions’ teeth. 9 They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. 10 They had tails with stingers, like scorpions, and in their tails, they had power to torment people for five months. 11 They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer). 12 The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.

13 The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the four horns of the golden altar that is before God. 14 It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” 15 And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. 16 The number of the mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand. I heard their number. 17 The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulphur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulphur. 18 A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulphur that came out of their mouths. 19 The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.

20 The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that

cannot see or hear or walk. ²¹ Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Song – When the roll is called up yonder

[Hymn 6: When the Trumpet of the Lord shall Sound - YouTube](#)

1. When The Trumpet Of The Lord Shall Sound, And Time Shall Be No More,
And The Morning Breaks, Eternal, Bright And Fair,
When The Saved Of Earth Shall Gather Over On The Other Shore,
And The Roll Is Called Up Yonder, I'll Be There,

When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder, (Chorus)
When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder,
When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder,
When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder, I'll Be There

2. On That Bright And Cloudless Morning When The Dead In Christ Shall Rise,
And The Glory Of His Resurrection Share;
When His Chosen Ones Shall Gather To Their Home Beyond The Skies,
And The Roll Is Called Up Yonder, I'll Be There

Chorus

3. Let Us Labour For The Master From The Dawn Till Setting Sun,
Let Us Talk Of All His Wondrous Love And Care;
Then When All Of Life Is Over, And Our Work On Earth Is Done,
And The Roll Is Called Up Yonder, I'll Be There

Sermon – The last post (Stephen T)

Over the school holidays Kaylene, Josh and I escaped for a couple of nights to Forster so that Josh might get some sort of a break before his HSC trials. But at the same time we went to Forster, so did an East coast low, dumping almost 400mm of rain. It rained so much that on our last night we got this text on our mobile phones. *"This is a flood evacuation warning from NSW SES for the Forster Keys area. You should prepare to evacuate your property."*

Now when you get a warning like that you need to sit up and take notice. We have all seen the terrible floods so far this year and the devastation that they can bring. The bushfires a couple of years were tragic for those who also got similar warnings and decided to stay, not leave. We are fortunate in Australia to have such an early warning system. Life will send tragedy our way but we don't want to go through unnecessary hardships, do we?

And Revelations 8 & 9 is an early warning system sent to the people of the whole world. Saying to them, judgement is coming. The end of the world is coming. Be prepared for this, it is not a once in a decade or once in a 100-year event but a once in a creation event.

Slide 2

Now really, we should all be on heightened alert for we have just last week in Revelation 6 & 7 we were warned about what would happen with the opening of the seven seals. And we saw power and war, poverty and death sweep all over the globe. And with the fifth seal we heard from the saints crying out how long will we have to suffer? A little longer was the response. Soon the number of believers who will be martyred will be reached. And when it was reached the sixth seal brought the final judgement on all the

earth. So, I think we are all waiting for the seventh seal to be opened and a new heaven and a new earth will be formed for all of God's people. But that isn't what happens next.

Slide 3

For when the seventh seal is opened, there is silence, complete silence for half an hour in heaven. There is a calm before the storm. An intermission before the show returns. A half time break before the action continues. And the audience waits to see what on earth is going to happen next. Changing the metaphor, a little, it is like the reverent silence before a dawn ANZAC day service. The crowd shuffles in to wait. You can sense the anticipation. All eyes are on the stage waiting for the next thing to happen. So we begin with

Slide 4

1. The Waiting (8:1-5)

2 "And I saw the seven angels who stand before God & seven trumpets were given to them. 3 Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne. 4 The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand. 5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake."

Slide 5

The silence turns to supplication. As we wait for the action to continue, we see how valuable the prayers of God's people are to God Himself. They are like incense before the throne of grace. They take the centre stage in this heavenly worship. We saw in Revelation 6, the prayers of God's people saying to God "How long?" How long until evil will be punished. How long until justice will be done? How much longer do we need to wait for God to be vindicated in this world & God's people can enjoy their full salvation? Lord, how long?

You know sometimes I wonder about my prayers, for they often don't get answered. Lord "thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is heaven." Lord when will you protect your people from the taunts of those who hate them? When will stop the Church from being persecuted in Nth Korea, in Afghanistan, in China? When will you get rid of the sin in my life? Lord when will the poor, the innocent, the hurting finally get justice?

But do you notice my prayers, your prayers, the prayers of all the saints are taken to the Lord's altar, filled with fire and finally unleashed onto the world? They were not wasted! They were not forgotten. They were stored ready for the right time for God to unleash his final judgement.

Slide 6

In the words of Tim Chester "*one day your prayers will be poured before the throne and will unleash the renewal of all things. When you pray for justice, the ultimate answer may be the final judgement. When you pray for peace, the ultimate answer may be the reign of the Lamb. When you pray for healing, the ultimate answer may be a resurrected body. When you pray for joy, the ultimate answer may be the wedding feast of the Lamb.*"

Slide 7

Or as John Phillips puts it, "*What a potent force is prayer! The saints go into their bedrooms, close the doors, kneel down and pray. They spread out before God their petitions and God hears. The prayers are placed in the scales of judgement.*"

Friends, we should never forget the power of prayer. It is not just the thing you do when you have exhausted all other options. It should be the first thing you do. As well as the last thing you do. For God in the moments of silence hears our prayers. Surely, we should be finding more and more times of silence in our lives for times of prayer. Real prayer. Deep prayer. For our world. Our nation. Our Church. Our community. Ourselves.

Slide 8

2. The Waiting then the Fanfare (8:6)

"Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them." Just like the silence of the predawn service is broken with sound of the bugle and the Last Post, so the *silence* in heaven is shattered by the sounding of the seven trumpets. Now in the OT the trumpet sounded for a number of reasons. When a war was being announced and the troops needed to come together. Or at the start of a holy day when the people of God were being summoned to repentance. And in the New Testament the trumpet sound signified the coming of the final day of judgement and the coming of Christ.

And all these ideas will come together in Revelation 8 & 9. But let me say what is described next is far from easy to understand. Its brutal. Its unpleasant. It's out of this world. And that's because in this apocalyptic writing the apostle John is not calling a spade a spade. He is calling it a shiny, metallic destroyer of dirt and worms!

Slide 10

But before we get to the trumpets, we have a really important question we need to answer first. John hears the seven trumpets after he sees the seven seals and before he witnesses the seven bowls in chapters 15 & 16. Does that mean that one comes after the other? Or are these the same events viewed from a different camera angle? Put it another way? Is the pause after the sixth seal and after the sixth trumpet and after the sixth bowl three different pauses or just one pause? Are we seeing three different sequences of judgement firstly the seals, then the trumpets & then the bowls or are they one and the same set of judgement?

Now good and godly Christians will disagree over this. But we can still remain brothers in Christ if we do. And in my preparation, I have benefitted greatly from reading from both points of view. For although the difference between the two approaches do lead to a different timetable of events at the end, they do hold many, many key truths in common.

But for me, I take the view that the seven seals, the seven trumpets and the seven bowls do not describe different periods, taking place one after another in sequence. They are parallel accounts. They describe the same period of history leading up to the end of the world. So the seven trumpets are like a TV action reply but from a different camera angle to the seals.

And I will explain my position briefly with three arguments. If in the sixth seal in Revelation 6:12, the sun turns to black and the stars in the sky fell to earth and the sky is rolled up like a scroll, how can the fourth trumpet blast in 8:12 lead to a third of the sun being struck and a third of the moon and stars turning dark? They have already been removed from the earth!

And how come there is such similarities between these three lots of sevens. Where the first four of the seals and the trumpets and the bowls are all linked together and see judgement fall on the natural order: the land, the seas, the waters & the sky. And in the fifth of the seven we see the emphasis move from what is happening on the earth to what is happening in heaven. Where in one case the Christians are sealed and protected from the dangers of judgement while in the other non-Christians are targeted by this judgement. And then when we come to the sixth & seven of each we come to a final judgement & the end of the world.

But for me the clincher comes when we compare the book of Revelation with Jesus own take on the end of the world in Matthew 24 & 25. If you look at what Jesus says will happen there are not three sequences but only one. And if you compare the seven seals and the seven trumpets and the seven bowls with the timetable Jesus gives us, each can be fitted in reasonably neatly. Each complement each other and fit in well with the words of Jesus.

And if that is the case, we get to see the reason why we have the seven seals and then the 7 trumpets. The seven seals emphasise the fact that when judgement comes God's people will be sealed & protected but when it comes to the seven trumpets those who are not followers of Christ will not be protected & will bear the full force of the judgement of God.

Slide 11

Thus, the trumpet call is a wake-up call. It is like the Last Post in an ANZAC day service. We can't afford to forget the sacrifices of those who have gone before us. We must repent from our wrong behaviour. There is a spiritual war going on right now & the consequences of which side we are on will have eternal repercussions. It is an early warning call to us all to come to Christ before it is too late.

Slide 12

3. The waiting, the fanfare and thirdly the message. (8:7-9:19)

For the trumpets bring a solemn warning. The first trumpet sounds and a third of the earth is burned up. It is like a massive bushfire has wreaked havoc on a large part of the world. And then the second trumpet sounds and our attention is turned toward the sea and third of it turns to blood. And a third of the living creatures there die & a third of ships are destroyed. Seeing there are currently 55,000 registered ships that's 18,000 gone all at once.

Then the third trumpet blasts and a third of the drinking water is polluted and then the fourth trumpet leads to a third of the sun and the moon and the stars losing their light and heat. Can you see what is happening here? The God who made the earth and the seas and the sun is one by one dismantling them all. For mark my words it is God who is doing all of this. He gave the trumpets to the angels. And it is the angels that are allowing all these disasters to happen. And yet even here God is being merciful. Only a third is being destroyed, which means it is a disaster but God is still giving people the chance to repent.

God is sending the people of this earth a warning. A trumpet call. Repent now before it's too late. God's people are sealed, they are safe. But if you aren't one of God's people, well the worst is yet to come.

"Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"

For now, the emphasis moves from the created world to the world of mankind. And the natural forces that ripped apart the created world will pale into insignificance when you see the spiritual forces that will be unleashed on the inhabitants of the earth.

Slide 13

9 *"The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. ² When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun & sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. Slide 14 ³ And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. ⁴ They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵ They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes."*

Don't try and work out what everything is pointing to. Just take a bird's eye view of the big picture. A gigantic furnace. An abyss. God opens it up with his key and lets loose an army of locusts. Now locusts normally attack anything that is green but here they attack people. And they bring pain and torture for not a short time a few days or a really long time a few years but a medium time of five months. The length of time locusts normally live.

Slide 14

Satan and his fellow demons are being let loose on the earth. And they are causing havoc and destruction on a massive scale. **6** *"During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but*

death will elude them."⁷ Once again let's not look at all the individual details. But these creatures are armed like scorpions, shaped like horses, crowned like kings, with the faces of men, the hair of women, the teeth of lions, armour plated, winged and moving with a deafening noise, attacking people instead of vegetation and able to discern between Christians and non-Christians because they can't harm those who have been previously sealed by God.

Slide 16

John is heaping image upon image to force us to see, to understand even to feel the horror of this judgement. And don't forget these locusts have a king. "*They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).*" Their king is Satan.

Wait a second Satan is torturing his own. Those who have not followed Satan, who have given their lives to Jesus are safe from Satan's scourge. So, he turns on his own. He doesn't want the best for them, he wants to destroy them. And when he is released that is what he attempts to do. But even then, he can't kill them. Just like in the book of Job where Satan could send plagues on Job but not kill him, so even here God does not allow Satan to go all the way. Not yet anyway.

Friends why then would we want to be on Satan's side? If he masquerades as an angel of light but really he wants to bring death and destruction on anyone who comes near? Why wouldn't we turn and repent and come to Jesus now? This is what he saves us from? Satan? And ourselves? From the destruction of the world and everything we put our faith and trust in? But that is just the first woe, now we come to the second woe and the sixth trumpet.

¹³ "The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice... said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." ¹⁵ And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. ¹⁶ The number of the mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand. I heard their number. Slide 18
¹⁷ The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulphur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulphur. ¹⁸ A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulphur that came out of their mouths. ¹⁹ The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury."

This depicts the final battle. The final war as Satan tears mankind apart. A third of the world's population perish. What is that today 2 billion people? So no family will be unscathed. No country will escape. Having your own army, your own nuclear weapons, your own riches cannot stand against this demonic army. John is being given us today a pictorial representation of a far greater reality: that we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of far greater magnitude and potential threat (Eph 6:12). There are forces at work in this world that bring men and women into the most terrible bondage.

Friends this is terrifying! Yet this is what is happening in our world. Satan will bring on God's judgement on his own evil followers. God pulls back his protective hand and Satan does his best but all he can do is give his own people what they deserve. The punishment for their unforgiven sins. So, when we see people suffering for their own sins, cheating, adultery, lying, putting their faith in themselves, their money, their careers, we can see behind that suffering, not only are they living in a broken world but they are getting what they deserve.

Slide 19

In the words of CS Lewis, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences **but shouts** from our pains. It is his megaphone to arouse a deaf world." It is his trumpet call! This is like the bugle playing the last post. So how will the people of the world respond?

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4. The Response (9:20-21)

²⁰ "The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. ²¹ Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts."

Do you see what is happening? People are refusing to repent. You see if they refused to respond to the message of salvation from the prophets of the OT, if they refused to acknowledge the grace of God found in the Son of God dying for them. If they continually ignore the teachings of the apostles and the Church. Then they will even refuse to respond when they see the judgement of God going on all around them. They will find a natural explanation. It was just two tectonic plates moving against each other. It is just the El Nino effect. It was a virus that escaped a wet market in Wuhan. And they will fail to see that God has allowed Satan to do his worst as a trumpet call to get all men and women to repent.

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It is a bit like what happened a number of years ago on the streets of London. Apparently a 5 y.o. fell off her bike. Nothing too traumatic but certainly a pit painful. But it turned out that at that very moment, the Queen Mother was driving past in her Rolls Royce. "Stop the car" she said to her chauffeur, "Please go and help her up." Meanwhile the Queen Mother opens the door and says to the little girl "Hop in and we will give you and your bike a ride home." To which the girl said "No thanks, I am not supposed to take lifts from strangers."

Now what did the little girl do? She failed to recognize royalty. She failed to obtain the help that she needed in her time of trouble. And she missed out on the ride of a lifetime. And that is what the vast majority of Australians are doing right now. They are failing to recognise their king is working now in the midst of his world. They are turning their backs on his help in their time of trouble. They are blaming God for all their troubles instead of realizing that the real culprit is Satan and that God has the power to help them in all their troubles. The trumpet is calling and they aren't listening. The ANZAC day service is finishing but they have no intention of remembering. They are happy to go on forgetting.

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A few years ago, Jim Bacon resigned as Premier of Tasmania. He was suffering from lung cancer and he faced the press with considerable dignity and used the occasion to warn other smokers, give up your cigarettes before it is too late. He said my doctor warned me. I didn't listen. And now it is too late. And the most stunning moment of all? A reporter asked him, have you given up smoking now? And Jim Bacon looks down & says 'No. No I haven't'

Slide 23

Well today God is giving this community another chance, another warning. The trumpets are sounding today from the Scriptures. The world is in a mess. There is COVID and floods and war and earthquakes and fires and poverty going on all around us. And God has sent his word to us telling you and I, repent from the judgement that is to come. Trust in the Lord Jesus. Be sealed with the Holy Spirit. And you escape the worst of the carnage. So what are you going to do? Be like Jim Bacon? Or be a follower of Jesus? The choice is yours!

Song – From the depths of woe [From The Depths of Woe - Indelible Grace -](#)

[YouTube](#)

1. From the depths of woe I raise to Thee
The voice of lamentation;
Lord, turn a gracious ear to me
And hear my supplication:
If Thou iniquities dost mark,
Our secret sins and misdeeds dark,
O who shall stand before Thee?
O who shall stand before Thee?
2. To wash away the crimson stain,
Grace, grace along availeith;
Our works, alas! Are all in vain;
In much the best life faileth;
No man can glory in Thy sight,
All must alike confess Thy might,
And live alone by mercy
And live alone by mercy
3. Therefore my trust is in the Lord,
And not in mine own merit;
On Him my soul shall rest, His word
Upholds my fainting spirit;
His promised mercy is my fort,
My comfort and my sweet support;
I wait for it with patience
I wait for it with patience
4. What though I wait the live-long night,
And til the dawn appeareth,
My heart still trusteth in His might,
It doubteth not nor feareth;
Do thus, O ye of Israel's seed,
Ye of the Spirit born indeed;
And wait til God appeareth
And wait til God appeareth
5. Though great our sins and sore our woes
His grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows,
Our upmost need it soundeth.
Our shepherd good and true is He,
Who will at last His Israel free
From all their sin and sorrow
From all their sin and sorrow

Benediction

"And I saw the seven angels who stand before God & seven trumpets were given to them. ³Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne. ⁴The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand." (Revelation 8:2-4)