

The Well

SLOW · SMALL · SIMPLE · STILL
A CONGREGATION OF CITY DISCIPLESHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

COME AND ABIDE: WASHED CLEAN

September 1st, 2024

WHO WE ARE

Welcome to The Well Church. We are a "centred set" church, and we are very glad you have chosen to worship with us today.

What is a "centred set" church? In the Australian Outback, farmers do not use fences to keep track of their animals - they dig wells, trusting that their herds will not stray too far from the source of life.

In the same way, we are a community centered around the well of living water: Jesus Christ himself.

In a "bounded set" community, you are either inside the fence or outside; you either fit, or you don't.

But in a centered set community, the important thing is that you are being drawn toward the well, drawn toward Jesus, the source of life.

We all come to the well at different speeds - and that is okay. So if you are a visitor with us today, no pressure! Follow along with us in this worship guide. Participate as much or as little as you would like. But we do hope you will get a taste of the water from the well at our center, and that ultimately you will find it as life-giving as we do.

TWO THINGS:

First: if you have a particular need you would like us to pray for, please sms/whatsapp your request to **011 7521 9450** and we will pray for it during our service. Even if you have never spoken to God before, please: don't be afraid! He is waiting to hear from you.

Second: worship will be followed by a 15 minute tea-break, and then a Q&A session. If anything you experience or hear today does not make sense, if you have any questions about the sermon or about Christianity in general, please ask! We will do our best to answer any questions you have.

Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down | GATHERING SONG

Words & Music Dave Doherty ©1980 Maranatha Praise Inc

**Come let us worship and bow down
Let us kneel before the Lord our God our Maker
Come let us worship and bow down
Let us kneel before the Lord our God our Maker
For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture
And the sheep of his hand
Just the sheep of his hand**

CALL TO WORSHIP

congregation reads the bold print

Psalm 111:1-10

Leader: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

People: **Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**

Leader: Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

People: **He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

Leader: He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

People: **He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

Leader: The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

People: **they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

Leader: He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!

People: **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Living Waters | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words & Music: Keith and Kristyn Getty & Ed Cash ©2016 Getty Music Publishing

**Are you thirsty, are you empty
Come and drink these living waters
Tired and broken, peace unspoken
Rest beside these living waters**

**Christ is calling, find refreshing
At the cross of living waters
Lay your life down, all the old gone
Rise up in these living waters**

**SLOW CHURCH?
SMALL CHURCH?
SIMPLE CHURCH?
STILL CHURCH?**

What does it even mean?

Well, in a pleasantly post-modern way, right back achya: what do these words mean to you? Is slow a good thing or a bad thing? What about small? What if "Simple Church" means "church for the simple-minded"? Are you in, or are you thinking maybe don't want to be associated with that? After all, what would people think!

To us, these words **Slow**, **Small**, **Simple** and **Still** represent our commitment to take our time, to ignore our world's definitions of success, to focus on relationships and all the basic things that really make life worth living, and to stay connected with those who have walked this road ahead of us. We don't want to leave people behind just because they can't keep up; we don't want to grow so big we lose track of each other's names; we don't want to get lost in the frantic; we don't want to reinvent the wheel.

[Chorus]

**There's a river that flows
With mercy and love
Bringing joy to the city of our God
There our hope is secure
Do not fear anymore
Praise the Lord of living waters**

**Spirit moving, mercy washing
Healing in these living waters
Lead your children to the shore line
Life is in these living waters**

[Chorus]

**Are you thirsty, are you empty
Come and drink these living waters
Love, forgiveness, vast and boundless
Christ, He is our living waters**

[Chorus]

Nothing But the Blood | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words & Music: Robert Lowry (1876)

**What can wash away my sin?
(nothing but the blood of Jesus)
What can make me whole again?
(nothing but the blood of Jesus)**

**For my pardon this I see
(nothing but the blood of Jesus)
For my cleansing this my plea
(nothing but the blood of Jesus)**

[Chorus]
**Oh! Precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Nothing but the blood of Jesus**

**Nothing can for sin atone
(nothing but the blood of Jesus)
Not of good that I have done
(nothing but the blood of Jesus)**

**This is all my hope and peace
(nothing but the blood of Jesus)
This is all my righteousness
(nothing but the blood of Jesus)**

[Chorus]

Dosaku t'lah dihapus
(hanya oleh darah Yesus)
Kudapat hidup baru
(hanya oleh darah Yesus)

[Reff]
O darah yang Kudus,
Darahnya Penebus!
Jiwaku ditebus,
Hanya oleh darah Yesus!
Hanya oleh darah Yesus!

Kulihat pengampunan
(hanya oleh darah Yesus)
Hatiku disucikan
(hanya oleh darah Yesus)

Dosaku t'lah dihapus
(hanya oleh darah Yesus)
Menjadi orang kudus
(hanya oleh darah Yesus)

[Reff]

Leader: Hear and know the law of Christ which He spoke on the mount

People:

- [3] **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
[4] **“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.**
[5] **“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.**
[6] **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.**
[7] **“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.**
[8] **“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**
[9] **“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.**
[10] **“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Beautiful Scandalous Night | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words & Music: Gerald Daugherty, Steve Hindalong ©1995 Never Say Never Songs, New Spring

**Go on up to the mountain of mercy
To the crimson perpetual tide
Kneel down on the shore
Be thirsty no more
Go under and be purified**

**Follow Christ to the Holy mountain
Sinner, sorry and wrecked by the fall
Cleanse your heart and your soul
In the fountains that flows
For you and for me and for all**

[Chorus]

**At the wonderful tragic mysterious tree
On that beautiful scandalous night you and me
Were atoned by His blood and forever washed white
On that beautiful scandalous night**

**On the hillside you will be delivered
At the foot of the cross, justified
And your spirit restored
By the river that pours
From our blessed Saviour's side**

[Chorus]

WORSHIP THROUGH CONFESSION

congregation sits down and reads the bold print aloud

Come, let us confess our sins together:

Gracious Lord, we confess that we have dishonored you in our words, thoughts, and deeds. Convinced of our wisdom, we strayed from your path. Dependent on our own strength, we have stumbled. Seeking our own righteousness, we have rejected your salvation. Lord, forgive our many sins. Cleanse the darkness from our lives, and turn our hearts back towards you. Grant us mercy in Christ alone by your grace alone through our faith alone. Amen.

(Take this moment to confess your sins to God in silent prayer)

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Jesus, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

TO THE PARENTS OF SMALL CHILDREN, MAY WE SUGGEST:

RELAX! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's House!

Sit toward the front, where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what is going on. They get bored looking at the backs of other peoples' heads. Wouldn't you?

Quietly explain the different parts of the service. Sing the songs, voice the prayers, read the responses. Children learn to worship by copying you.

If your child becomes noisy or disruptive and you feel you need to take them outside, that is okay! Just remember to come back. As Jesus once said, "let the little children come to me!"

TO EVERYONE ELSE, MAY WE SUGGEST:

RELAX! The presence of children is a gift to our church, and they are a reminder that we all need to grow in various ways!

Please welcome our children, and give their parents a smile of encouragement, *especially* when it looks like someone under their care is having a tough time sitting still. The bible says that Jesus loved us and died for us even while we were still being deliberately, rebelliously naughty (Colossians 1:21-22). The least we can do is show a little kindness to those children who are having the same struggle.

Remember that the way we welcome children directly affects the way they respond to worship, to God, and to one another. Please let them know that they are welcome (wiggles and all) in this house of worship!

WHY CONFESSION?

If all our sins — past, present, and future — have already been forgiven through Jesus' blood, shed on the Cross 2000 years ago, why do we still confess our sins in worship?

For one thing, we are not God. While for him our sins have been removed from us "as far as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103:12), we often have trouble remembering that. Without this regular rite of confession and the reminder that our sins are really, truly gone, many of us could fall into despair under the burden of sins we no longer actually have to carry.

On the other hand, without this regular opportunity to contemplate where we have recently gone wrong, many of us could be tempted to forget about our sins and start thinking we are pretty good people all by ourselves!

From the Depths of Woe | SONG OF CONFESSION

Words: Martin Luther (1524) Music: Christopher Miner (1997)

**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,
Or secret sins and misdeeds dark,
O who shall stand before thee?
(Who shall stand before thee?)
O who shall stand before thee?
(Who shall stand before thee?)**

Dari lembah sengsaraku
Ku berseru, ya Tuhan!
Dengarlah suara hambamu
Doaku pun kabulkan!
Jikalau kesalahanku
Terus teringat olehmu
Tak dapatku bertahan
(Tak dapatku bertahan)
Tak dapatku bertahan
(Tak dapatku bertahan)

**To wash away the crimson stain,
Grace, grace alone availeth;
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
(Live alone by mercy)
And live alone by mercy
(Live alone by mercy)**

Namun, ya Tuhan, padamu
Terdapat pengampunan
Kesalahanku Kautebus
Kasihmu kautunjukkan.
Tiada insan yang benar
Tetapi rahmatmu besar:
Terpujilah namamu!
(Terpujilah namamu!)
Terpujilah namamu!
(Terpujilah namamu!)

**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
(Wait for it with patience)
I wait for it with patience
(Wait for it with patience)**

'Ku menantikanmu teguh,
Rahmatmu kudambakan;
Tak kuandalkan jasaku,
Firmanmu kuharapkan.
Lebih dari pengawal pun
Menunggu fajar bertekun
Kutunggu dikau, Tuhan!
(Kutunggu dikau, Tuhan!)
Kutunggu dikau, Tuhan!
(Kutunggu dikau, Tuhan!)

WHAT DOES TRUE FORGIVENESS MEAN?

Forgiveness does not mean that God simply waves his hand and pretends nothing happened. That would be a terrible injustice, leaving abused and abusers alike without resolution!

Forgiveness means that God has taken what we did wrong and made it right. Everything that we owe to those we have hurt will be repaid; everything that has been stolen from us will be restored.

How does this happen? We don't know exactly how it works, but somehow when Jesus, the God-Man, died on a Roman cross two thousand years ago, he atoned (payed the debt) for all our sins, and rescued us from slavery to the powers of fear and death.

For Christians, accepting our Father's forgiveness is an act of faith. This is because we do not always see clearly in this life how everything we have lost or stolen is being restored. We have only the words of his promise that it is true even now, and that one day we will see it clearly.

PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

congregation listens while the minister reads

Based on Ezekiel 36:22, 25-27

The LORD God says:

It is not for your sake, O people of God, but for my holy name, that I, the LORD, will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

And I, the LORD, will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.

And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

And I, the LORD, will put my Spirit within you,

and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Our gracious God forgives you your sin, strengthens you by the Spirit, and will keep you in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

There is a Fountain | SONG OF PRAISE

Words & Music: George Bernard Shaw (1913)

**There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Emmanuel's veins
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains
Lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains**

Tercurah darah Tuhanku
Di bukit Golgota;
Yang mau bertobat, ditebus,
Terhapus dosanya
Terhapus dosanya, terhapus dosanya
Yang mau bertobat, ditebus,
Terhapus dosanya.

**The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day
And there may I though vile as he
Wash all my sins away
Wash all my sins away, wash all my sins away
And there may I though vile as he
Wash all my sins away**

Penyamun yang di sisinya
Di b'ri anugerah;
Pun aku yang penuh cela
Dibasuh darahnya
Dibasuh darahnya, dibasuh darahnya,
Pun aku yang penuh cela
Dibasuh darahnya.

**Dear dying Lamb, thy precious blood
Shall never lose its power
Til' all the ransomed church of God
Be saved to sin no more
Be saved to sin no more, be saved to sin no more
Til' all the ransomed church of God
Be saved to sin no more**

Ya Anakdomba, darahmu
Tak hilang kuasanya,
Sehingga s'lamat umatmu
Dan suci s'lamanya
Dan suci s'lamanya, dan suci s'lamanya,
Sehingga s'lamat umatmu
Dan suci s'lamanya.

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder | SONG OF PREPARATION

Words: John Newton (1774) Music: Laura Taylor ©2001 Laura Taylor Music

**Let us love and sing and wonder
Let us praise the Savior's name
He has hushed the law's loud thunder
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame
He has washed us with his blood
He has washed us with his blood
He has washed us with his blood
He has brought us nigh to God**

**Let us love the Lord who bought us
Pitied us when enemies
Called us by his grace and taught us
Gave us ears and gave us eyes
He has washed us with his blood
He has washed us with his blood
He has washed us with his blood
He presents our souls to God**

**Let us sing though fierce temptation
Threatens hard to bear us down
For the Lord, our strong salvation
Holds in view the conqueror's crown
He, who washed us with his blood
He, who washed us with his blood
He, who washed us with his blood
Soon will bring us home to God**

Let us wonder grace and justice
Join and point to mercy's store
When through grace in Christ our trust is
Justice smiles and asks no more
He who washed us with his blood
He who washed us with his blood
He who washed us with his blood
Has secured our way to God

Let us praise and join the chorus
Of the saints enthroned on high
Here they trusted him before us
Now their praises fill the sky
You have washed us with your blood
You have washed us with your blood
You have washed us with your blood
You are worthy Lamb of God

GIVING

Generosity is one of the marks of being in true community. At one point, the bible asks, "if anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?" (1John3:17)

The tithe is an act of worship commanded by God. Traditionally, Christians give at least 1/10th of their income to their home church for the support of their pastors, for those within the congregation who are in need, and for the care of orphans, widows, and refugees.

This part of our worship is especially for those who call CDPCCKL their church home. Visitors, please, keep your cash! Spend it on dinner with your family.

PASTORAL PRAYER

As a church centred on the throne of Jesus Christ, every week we approach that throne boldly to ask our God for help with the daily cares of life. We speak up like children, and we go away having drunk our fill. As one of our shepherds prays for our requests, for our church, for our city and for the rulers of our nation, join with him. Add to this prayer your own cares and troubles - and your joys as well.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

ONLINE GIVING

make your tithes & offering online

Name: City Discipleship
Presbyterian Church
Bank: Hong Leong Bank
Account No: 045-000-47806
Remarks: Please indicate "KL Tithe"
or "KL Offering"

PASTORAL PRAYER

congregation reads the bold print

Minister: And now, as our Saviour has taught us,
let us pray together:

**Our Father who is in heaven, holy is your name. May your kingdom come,
may your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

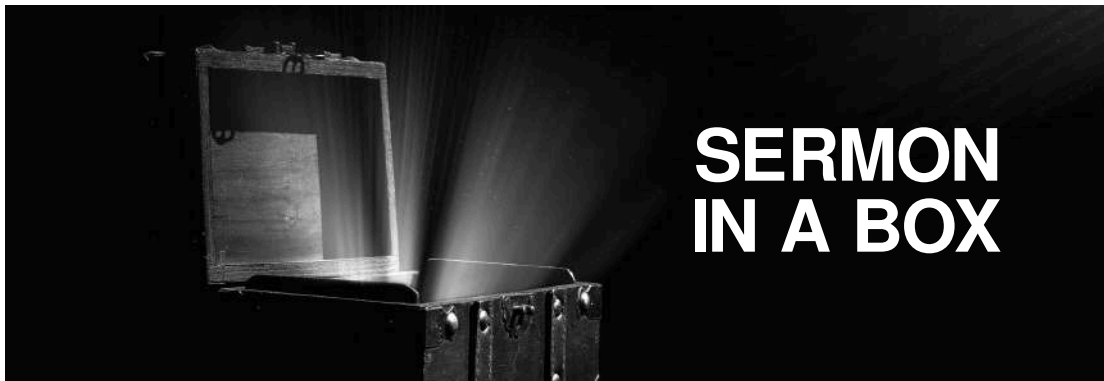
**For yours is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever and ever.**

Amen

[1] Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. [2] During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, [3] Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, [4] rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. [5] Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. [6] He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" [7] Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." [8] Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." [9] Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" [10] Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." [11] For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!



WHY SUCH ANCIENT LITERATURE?

We may be a Slow Church, a Small Church, a Simple Church — but we are **Still a church**. We aren't trying to do anything new. Actually, we're trying to avoid doing something new! We are wanting to tap into ideas deeper, greater, wiser than ourselves, the same ideas that have shaped the People of God for over a thousand generations.

There are certain aspects of our worship we have to update, things like language, music, location, everything we need to understand and connect with what is going on. But as Marshall McLuhan warned us, "the medium is the message": every time we make even a small change in how we express these ideas, we run the risk of changing the deeper message — the message that makes us who we are.

The best way to make sure we aren't changing the subject is to go back to the source: these ancient texts; and to read them much as they have been read for millenia.

Of course, many things have changed since these documents were first written and compiled! That is why we have a sermon: so a man called by God to study the cultures, conditions, and theologies of those times can help us connect more deeply with what has been written.

Sounds pretty hard, right? But actually, making that connection is not as difficult as you might think. That's because human nature really hasn't changed all that much in the last four thousand years. So if you have experienced adultery, betrayal, theft, envy, joy, generosity, passion, love, and a sense that there just has to be more to life than this! — then we think you'll find this ancient literature just as relevant to you as it was to its original readers.

The God who Serves

Isn't preaching a little old-fashioned?
After all, no one these days can pay attention for longer than 20 minutes at a time anyway. That's why really hip, cool churches use drama, video, and other media to communicate, you know!

Yeah, we've heard that. Still, there are two main reasons why we've decided to keep preaching at the center of our worship:

First, we believe a sermon is not simply a lecture, an information download. Rather, it is a continuing story, read to us by our Father.

Through the preaching of God's Word, we enter into the lives of his children who have lived his story before us; through listening, we become part of it, and it becomes a part of us. So while it is true that attention spans are getting shorter, making it harder for us to remember details, we have faith that no one ever has trouble remembering the plot of a great story! — especially one they are part of.

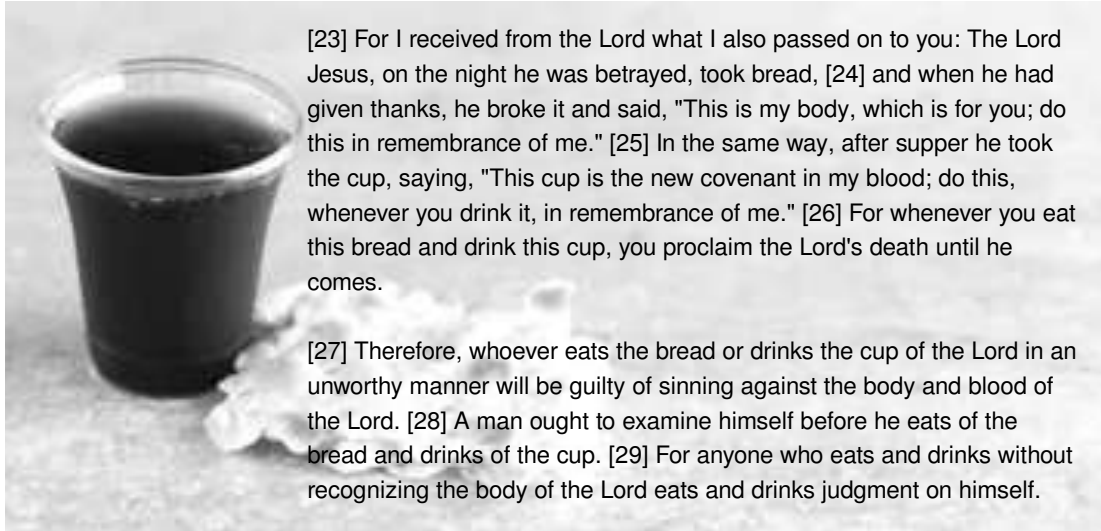
Second, scripture itself tells us that preaching his Word is the best way to introduce people to God, and the best way to connect our small church to the rest of God's People.

Of course, in ancient times preaching was the only way ordinary people could interact with God's Word. Books were very rare and expensive, and few people could read. But things are very different today. So why do we still insist on preaching? Why can't each person simply read God's Word for themselves and then just move on to lunch?

Well, actually we do want everyone to read God's Word for themselves, in whatever language makes most sense to them! Still, recent advances in neuroscience confirm the bible's claim that preaching has a different effect on us than simply reading (or watching a drama):

"Erica Michael and Marcel Just of Carnegie Mellon University did a brain scan study to test whether the medium is indeed the message. They showed that different brain areas are involved in hearing speech and reading it, and different comprehension centers in hearing words and reading them... This finding refutes the conventional theory of comprehension, which argues that a single center in the brain understands words, and it doesn't really matter how (by what sense or medium) information enters the brain, because it will be processed in the same way and place. Michael and Just's experiment shows that each medium creates a different sensory and semantic experience - and, we might add, develops different circuits in the brain." - from [The Brain That Changes Itself](#), by Norman Doidge, M.D.

So there you have it: preaching affects your brain differently from reading! — and it could also change your life.

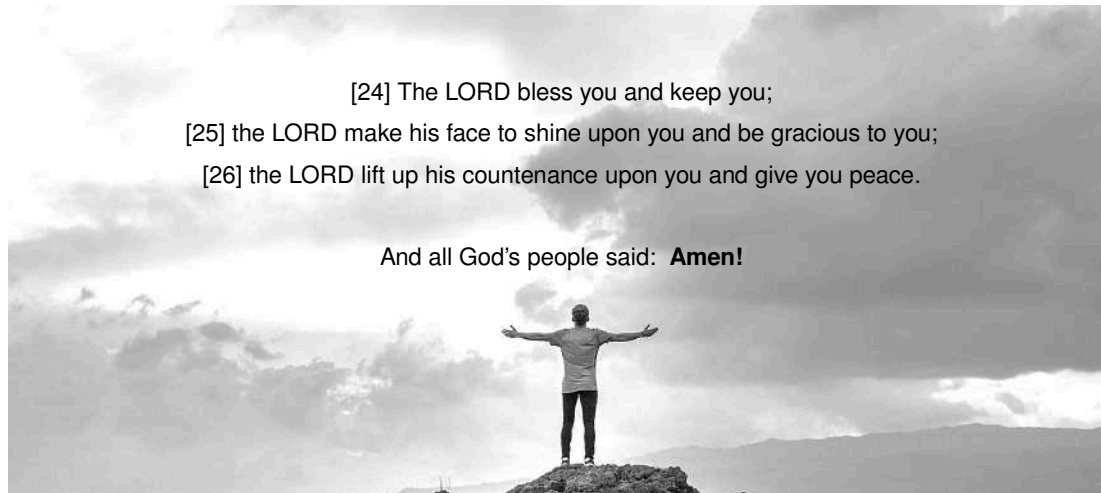


[23] For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." [25] In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." [26] For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

[27] Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. [28] A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. [29] For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26



[24] The LORD bless you and keep you;

[25] the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

[26] the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

And all God's people said: **Amen!**

OUR FATHER'S TABLE

One of the great privileges of baptism is getting to join our brothers and sisters at our Father's dinner table. With this symbolic meal of bread and wine, we remember that it was through the sacrifice of our older brother Jesus that we get to be part of God's family at all!

BLESSING

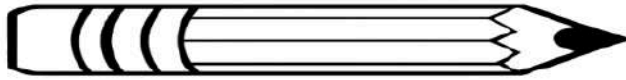
The benediction (meaning "Words of Blessing") is the close of our corporate conversation with God.

It is not actually a prayer **to** God, but actually a blessing **from** God.

Traditionally, people will turn their faces toward heaven, and will often extend open hands, palms up, in a posture of receiving.

Sermon Notes FOR KIDS

Date: _____



As you attend church services with your family, use this sheet to help you pay attention and learn. We want you to worship with us by singing to God and listening to the message.



who is speaking?




words you heard but don't know...

what is the main passage we are reading today?

Book:

Chapter:

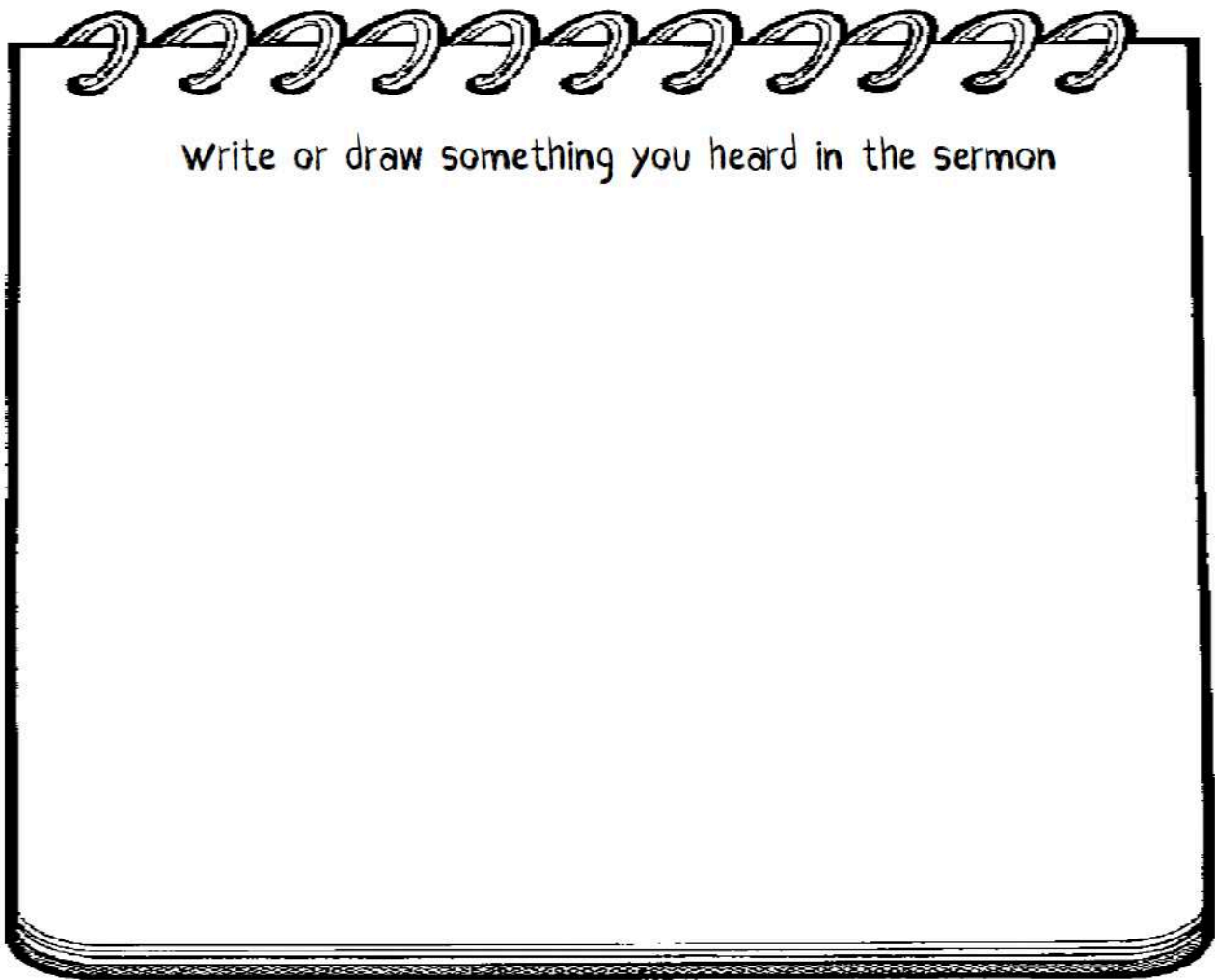
Verse:



what are we learning about God from this passage?



Favorite song today was:



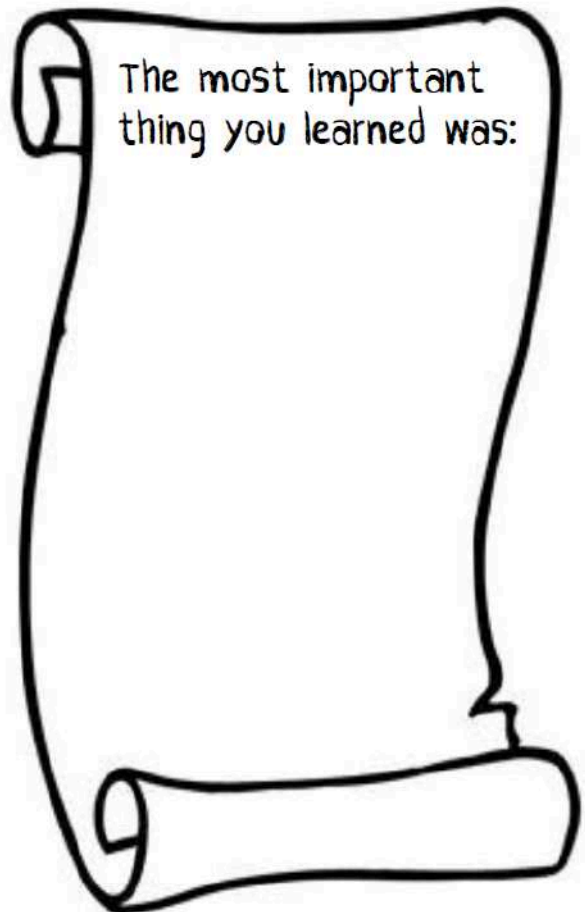
Write or draw something you heard in the sermon



Questions?



How does today's message apply to your life?



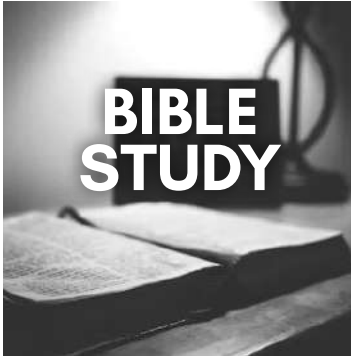
The most important thing you learned was:

UPCOMING EVENTS



TODDLER TEAM

Come and serve God by helping our young families during the Sunday service. For more information, please contact Ps. Brian at +60 11 7521 9450.



BIBLE STUDY **Tuesdays, 8pm**

Come and join us as we meet every Tuesday night to spend time studying the Bible together. We are currently studying 1 Corinthians. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Ps. Brian at +60 11 7521 9450.