

The Well

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

COME AND ABIDE: TRUE DISCIPLES

September 22nd, 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.

O How Good It Is | GATHERING SONG

Words & Music: Martin Ball

[Chorus]

O how good it is
When brethren dwell together
Dwell together in unity

For there the Lord commands a blessings
Life forevermore
For there the Lord commands a blessings
Life forevermore

[Chorus]

For there the Lord pours out his spirit
Like a river that overflows
For there the Lord pours out his spirit
Let your river flow

[Chorus]

CALL TO WORSHIP

congregation reads the bold print

Psalm 100

- [1] Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
- [2] Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!
- [3] Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- [4] Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
- [5] For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

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

**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.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

A creed (from the Latin word *credo*, "I believe") tells us who we are as Christians.

This particular creed has been around (in one form or another) for at least 1700 years. It is at the centre of what every Christian everywhere and everywhen has believed.

As we read this creed together, we are reminded that our **Slow, Small, Simple, Still** Church is just one tiny expression of a diverse global community that goes back thousands of years. This creed unites us with Christian men and women who were burned alive in Ancient Rome in 64 A.D., with Christian merchants who planted churches in Malaya and Indonesia during the 300's, with Christian monks who tamed the barbarians of Germany and Britain in the 800's, with persecuted and suffering believers in every corner of the globe today.

Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words: Henry J. Van Dyke (1907) Music: Hymn to Joy by Ludwig van Beethoven

**Joyful, joyful we adore Thee
God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee
Op'ning to the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us with the light of day!**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.**

**Mortals, join the happy chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us,
Brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us Sunward
In the triumph song of life.**

This I Believe (The Creed) | WORSHIP IN SONG

Words & Music: Ben Fielding, Matt Crocker ©2014 Hillsong Worship

**Our Father everlasting
The all creating One
God Almighty
Through Your Holy Spirit
Conceiving Christ the Son
Jesus our Savior**

[Chorus 1]

**I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the name of Jesus**

Our Judge and our Defender
Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness
You rose in glorious life
Forever seated high

[Chorus 1]

I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the name of Jesus

[Bridge]

I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord
I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

[Chorus 2]

I believe in life eternal
I believe in the virgin's birth
I believe in the saints' communion
And in Your holy Church
I believe in the resurrection
When Jesus comes again
For I believe, in the name of Jesus

[Chorus 1]

WORSHIP THROUGH CONFESSION

congregation sits down and reads the bold print aloud

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In Your mercy, grant us humble repentance. In your grace, fix our eyes on your Son Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. 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 CONFESS SINS?

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!

Let Me Find Thee | SONG OF CONFESSION

Words: Joachim Neander Music: Matthew S. Smith ©2012 detuned radio music

Behold me here, in grief draw near
Pleading at thy throne oh King
To thee each tear, each trembling fear
Jesus Son of Man I bring
Let me find thee,
Let me find thee,
Let me find thee
Lord of mercy, King of grace

Look down in love and from above
With thy Spirit satisfy
Thou hast sought me, thou hast bought me
And thy purchase Lord am I
Let me find thee,
Let me find thee,
Let me find thee
Here on earth and then on high

Hear the broken, scarcely spoken
Longings of my heart to thee
All the crying, all the sighing
Of thy child accepted be
Let me find thee,
Let me find thee,
Let me find thee
Wounded healer, suffering Lord

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

1 John 1:7-10

[7] But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

[8] If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

[9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[10] If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

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

Before the Throne of God Above | SONG OF PRAISE

Words: Charitie Lees Bancroft (1863) Music: Vikki Cook ©1997 PDI Worship

Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong, a perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is "Love,"
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
My name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heav'n he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart.
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see him there
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me.
to look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there! the risen Lamb,
my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM,
the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by his blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Savior and my God
with Christ, my Savior and my God

We Are One In The Spirit | SONG OF PREPARATION

Words & Music: Peter Scholtes ©1966 F.E.L. Publications

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love

We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love

All praise to the Father from whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus His only Son
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love

GIVING

Generosity is one of the marks of being in true community. At one point, the bible asks, "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" (1 John 3:17)

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 The Well Church 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

[31] When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him.

[32] If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. [33] Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' [34] A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. [35] By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

[36] Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward." [37] Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." [38] Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

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.

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.

The Mark of a True Disciple

1. What is the mark?

2. What are false notions of it?

3. How do you get the mark?

We Are One In The Spirit | SONG OF RESPONSE

Words & Music: Peter Scholtes ©1966 F.E.L. Publications

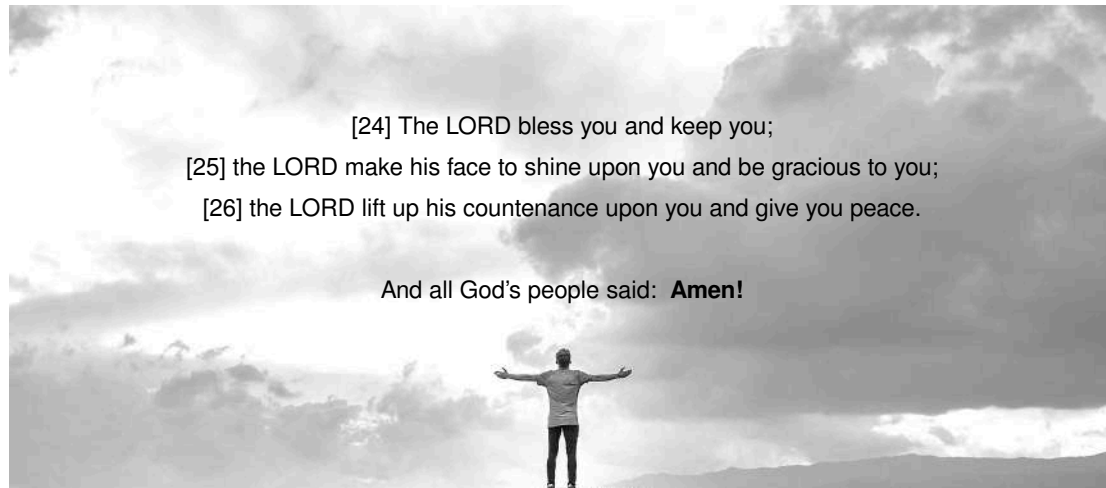
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love

All praise to the Father from whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus His only Son
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love

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!**

BLESSING

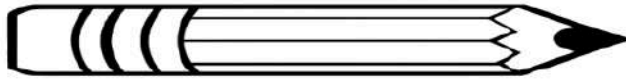
The benediction (meaning "Words of Blessing") is the close of our corporate conversation with God.

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?



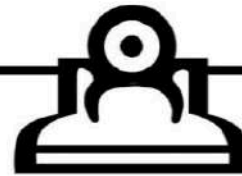
words you heard but don't know...

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:



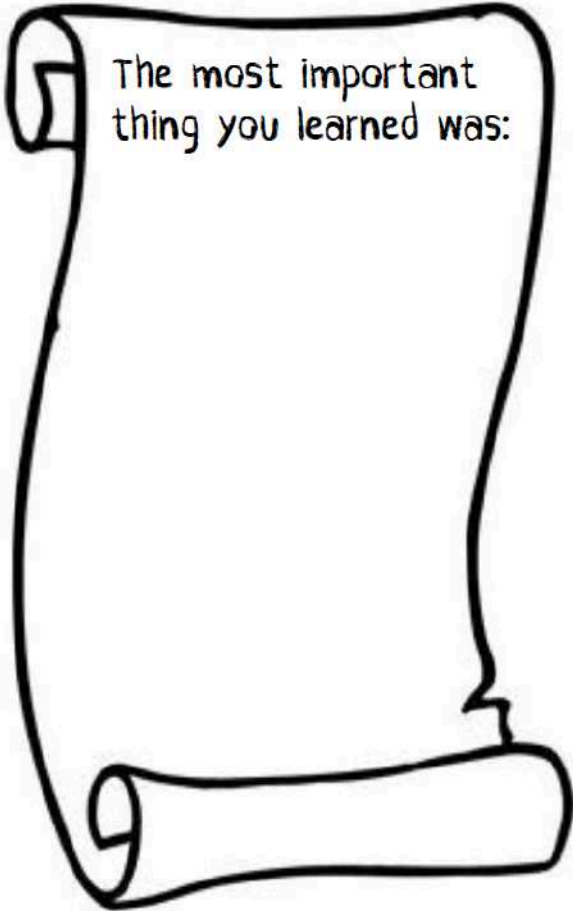
Write or draw something you heard in the sermon



Questions?



How does today's message apply to your life?



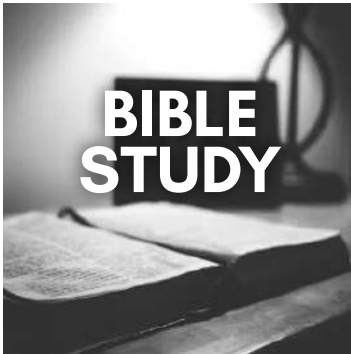
The most important thing you learned was:

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 IS TAKING A BREAK

Bible Study will be taking a break and will resume on October 1st.



SIMPLE SATURDAY | Board Games & Potluck **September 28, 4pm** **The Well Church**

No agenda, no pressure. Just an excuse to boardgames, potluck and hangout. For more information please contact:
Elder Jason @ 012 675 9111
Ruth @ 017 230 7254



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