



Sermon Transcription • Abbotsford

The Day of Christ - (Joel 3:17-21)

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[Please Note: This transcript has been lightly edited for ease of reading. Also, some headings have been added in square brackets to aid the reader in locating portions of the sermon.]

Now a number years ago I travelled with a group of young adults and we went to the country of Uganda in Africa. And our intention there was to do a whole bunch of things, visiting homes, and seeing kids there, doing various community projects in Uganda and so on and so forth. One of the big organizations that we support and work with here at the church, at Northview, is Compassion. And Compassion does amazing work where they have different projects, partnering with different churches where they help kids who are disenfranchised to have an education and a bright future. So our itinerary while we were in Uganda was to go and visit this Compassion project. So we load up the bus, we're about 21 young adults plus myself and a few other leaders and our hosts were also with us. And so we're going down to this Compassion project. So on the way, one of our hosts says to the driver, "Hey, why don't you pull over into that sidestreet there, there is a home here, there's a buddy of mine who I'm sure would love to meet the team, just get to know you guys and then we can proceed, we have enough time, it's not a big deal." So of course we take this side detour. Now, we hadn't planned to go to this little side home here, we hadn't planned, it wasn't in the itinerary, it's just that we had time and this guy said, "Hey why don't we swing by." So we swung by and then the buddy we were hoping to meet wasn't there, he had gone to do some other errands and things like that, which is fine. So we come to the office and we meet this lovely young lady. She had just graduated grade 12 and she was now wondering what the future holds for her. You see in that particular home once a child graduates from grade 12 they are expected to move along and move on because that space is required for another child. And so this poor girl had no idea what to do. Her story was very sad in that, while she was still younger her mom and dad passed away. And after mom and dad passed away, of course relatives started taking care of her. And as they were taking care of her, she began experiencing a lot of abuse and mistreatment and then uncle so and so comes around and he wants to do certain things to her and she was not going to have any of it. Of course he kept trying and trying and this and that and she's being abused in all sorts of ways, her mom and dad are not there to support her or to stand up for her. So she escapes and runs away. She goes to live in the streets, and of course street life is hard and while she's there, the ones who are the administration of this home were out there just doing their own thing and they meet this girl and she looks like a very promising young girl and they realize she's living in the streets. They hear the story, their heart's broken, and so they bring her in and put her there. Now she's graduated, there is no money to take her to college, now what? Where is she going to go? She can't go back home because she knows uncle so and so is still there. So what does she do? So the team got to meet this girl and interact with her and she showed us around and we asked her, "Hey what are you doing this afternoon?" She said, "Oh I've got



nothing to do.” The team said, “Fine, come along with us, let’s go to the Compassion project.” So we go spend the entire afternoon with the Compassion kids, had a blast with this girl. Then we came, dropped her off and went back to our base. And then while we were there that evening the team said, “Hey, you know, why don’t we invite this girl to join us and she can just tag along, we’ll pay for her meals and whatever. She can just tag along with us because she has nothing to do there, because she’s a young adult like us.” I said fine. So this little girl began coming along with us and doing all sorts of things for the next 10 days while we’re there.

Now, everytime we go on a mission trip. You know there’re donuts that are sold and you guys are so generous, particularly you first service people. Like you buy everything [laughter], so all the money that was raised by my team, we raised above and beyond what we needed for the trip. So we had all this money and we’re now discerning, “Okay Lord, would you show us what we ought to do with this money.” So 10 days in with this girl and the team got to love her and everything, but now the team is realizing, now we are leaving and where will this girl go? She will probably end up on the streets and a young, beautiful girl on the streets, that story’s not going to end well for her. So the team decided you know what, why don’t we take all this money that we have raised and decide to give her a scholarship. Now education in Uganda is cheaper than Canada. We had enough money to pay for her four years university straight. And so we bring this girl in [applause], right! We bring this girl in and we paid her way through college and I’m so glad to report that her life has changed, her future is bright.

Now we all love stories like this don’t we? Stories where you see there is difficulties, tragedy, and then things get worse and it’s so difficult and challenges and so on, but then the story ends well, right? We love stories like this and the book of Joel is the same way. It’s a story that begins with the aftermath of a locust infestation where people are devastated. *Everything* they owned is gone. I mean they’re agrarian culture back then, and so the locust came and they ate everything. And then to make matters worse there was this military invasion that occurred and an occupation that was just heavy on the people. And then after the occupation and all this and the oppression that the people were experiencing, God through Joel is telling people, you know you need to repent, you need to repent, you need to repent. The people repent and then later on from Joel 2:12 all the way to the end of the book we see what I would call pure gospel. Where you see now the people repent based on the call of God, “Repent, repent.” And then God responds as a jealous God, jealous of his people and jealous meaning he’s fiercely protective of his people. And God begins to bestow blessing upon blessing in the immediate, but then in the future Joel now coming to Joel 3:2-16, Joel will now say, “Hey they’ll be a day when God will come and make all things new.” He will begin with the evil and wicked people and how he’ll bring judgement to them, we talked about that last week. And then after the judgement, our passage today, he will now lavish blessing in his day. So we’ll be talking about the day of Christ, and see how God lavishes his blessing on his people. And there’s two things, there’s a physical blessing and then there is a spiritual blessing. Joel’s story ends well. It ends well and so today we will see how the ending, this beautiful ending looks like.



[Physical Blessing]

So point number one, physical blessing. Now I don't know if you're like me, but everytime I listen to a story, like the story I told you about this girl in Uganda. You know, I mean the story ends with, and she lived happily ever after. Any wonderful story, even a cartoon story, it ends, and they lived happily ever after. Now I always wonder, what is the happily ever after. What does it look like? Because I don't want the story to end, yes there was struggle, there was difficulty, there were dark days, and then the villains were taken care of and then the victims were liberated. And it was all great and they lived happily ever after. Now I want to know, how is life now in the happily ever after. So for example, for example, I enjoyed this movie, *The Lion King*. So the first one in particular was the best in my opinion. So I wondered, did little Simba become a great lion king like Mufasa, his father? You know, <speaking deeply>Mufasa [laughter], remember the hyenas in that, on that was a funny scene. [laughter] Was Simba, did he become a great king like his father Mufasa? Or for instance, the other day, this was Friday night, I watched *Cars 3*, and Lightning McQueen is no longer racing and my heart was broken for little McQueen, but now he becomes a crew chief for this new racer called, Cruz Ramirez so now it ends well. Like hey, they are now buddies and Cruise just won and now she's off to the races and it's over. And I wonder okay, will McQueen be a good crew chief? I can't wait for *Cars 4*, I'm so excited! [Laughter]

What happens, my point here is, what happens, what is life like in the happily ever after? What is life like? And that's what Joel will tell us here. What is the happily ever after that Jesus is promising his people, look at Joel 3:18, now we'll read verse 18 first, we'll come back to verse 17 towards the end of the message. So Joel 3:18-19,

"In that day [it's a future day now, in that day] the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water. A fountain will flow out of the Lord's house and will water the valley of acacias. But Egypt will be desolate, Edom a desert waste, because of violence done to the people of Judah, in whose land they shed innocent blood."

We'll stop there. So Joel will now use this language of the mountains dripping new wine, hills flowing with milk, ravines flowing with water, and then the from the Lord's holy hill, the Lord's holy mountain they'll be rivers coming to this area called Acacias, now this area was a desert. There was nothing green in this desert, maybe cactuses and all these acacia trees, but often grow in a desert area. Nothing green, no green lawns there, and then Joel will say, in those days the Lord will provide moisture and water and he will water even this desert. So in other words, the image that we are to walk away with, take home, take away, would be, this is not just God sustaining, giving you something that would be sufficient, no, this is abundance, this is extravagance that God is bestowing upon people, tremendous abundance, extravagance. So I'll give you an example, so if I was to come home for dinner, to come to your home for dinner tonight, I show up. Of course you'll have enough food, you might have some rice or potatoes there, you might have maybe some chicken you might have some tossed salad there, some juice for us to drink or maybe a dessert to come later. So you're table, you're dinner table will have enough to feed yourself and me until we are full. But there'll still be space



on that table maybe to add another platter of burgers and another platter, there'll be still space on your table. Now I want you to go back and recall what your table looked like Thanksgiving dinner, when the turkey was there and she was huge and there were all sorts of potatoes there and all sorts of veggies and casseroles there and brussel sprouts, yuck, they were there [laughter]. And all these other trimmings that go around this bird. Well there was hardly space for you to put your glass of punch on that table. You remember that right? So in other words there's so much food that for the next week you'll be having turkey soup, turkey sandwiches, cold turkey, everything turkey, for the next week right? In other words that is abundance, that is extravagant as compared to what you will have tonight. This image of turkey dinner, Christmas dinner image, is what heaven will be like according to Joel. Where God is not going to just give you enough, he's going to give you abundance. There'll be an abundance of grace and provision for all of us, is the image, the Lord will lavish abundance on his people. Amos, the prophet Amos, in chapter 9, Amos 9:13, this is what Amos says about this day, the day of the Lord and what God will do for his people, he says,

“‘The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from *all* the hills.’”

So when he's talking about here how the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman, meaning when we plant and now it's harvest time and we're harvesting what the Lord has enabled the land to produce. There'll be so much harvest that when the season changes and it's time for us to go and plant we will still be harvesting. We will not be done harvesting yet, and the planters will be right at our heels if not overtaking us. That's how much blessing the Lord will pour onto his people. And not only that, Isaiah the prophet, Isaiah 65:17, listen to what Isaiah will say. Isaiah says, this is the Lord speaking now,

“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.”

The former things, will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. Think of it this way. When you take your kids and you go to Disneyland okay, you've taken them from Abbotsford, swanky Abbotsford, and now you take them to Disneyland. When they're in Disneyland and particularly when you're kids like are 5, 6, 7, when they're still wowed by Snow White and Lightning McQueen, and all these other characters, Disney characters and they're there. Are your kids thinking about the Mill Lake park [laughter] when they're there? Are they thinking about the little trampoline that's in your backyard? No they're not! In other words, the former things will not be remembered nor will they come to mind when they're there, because this is Disneyland, the happiest place on earth. Isaiah 65:18-25,

“But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. [Jerusalem being God's city.] I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. [The sound of crying of weeping will not be there!] ‘Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. [By that he means, the challenges that old age will bring, where we



can't move as quick anymore and we can't articulate ourselves as clearly anymore and the aches and the pains and the hurts and the tumors, and all of it, not there ever, is what God is saying here. Verse 21] They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands. They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the Lord, they and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; [so before you pray, God already knows what your need is and he will respond. Before they call I will answer] while they are still speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,' says the Lord."

What a glorious place. What a glorious place of physical blessing that God will bestow upon his people right? God will bestow all this to those who are his. Now you can imagine the people in Joel's day who have just gone through this devastation of the locust, this oppression by this foreign armies and they're standing at the heels of nothing yet has happened and God is saying, "This is what I will do for you, this is what I will do for you. You see you may be here and I don't know what your life is like right now, I don't know what struggles and challenges you're facing right now in your life, but the Lord will be looking at your challenges, troubles, things going sideways and all that in your life and the life of your family and the Lord is saying, "You don't worry I got you." There's a brighter day coming. There's a brighter day coming, take courage, there's a brighter day coming. There is a physical blessing that will come, abundance and extravagance the Lord will bestow upon you on his day.

[Spiritual Blessing]

But it's not just physical blessing. The Lord will also bestow upon his people spiritual blessing. The Lord will bestow upon his people spiritual blessing. So in my house from time to time at dinner time we talk theology. At least my kids love asking their tough questions, you know, when the bird dies where does it go? Does it go to heaven? And of course Dad is a pastor and I have to have an answer. "No honey your dad, your bird doesn't go to heaven and all that."

"Ohhh, why?" It's fun. So my daughter, my youngest daughter is quite the character. So she looks at me one day with her food in her mouth and all that and she says, "Okay Daddy!"

"Yes dear."

"Will heaven be like church? You know where we come, we sing, and then you preach for a loooooong time and we got to go and all that stuff and have fun, like will heaven be like church? Where we're gonna like gather?" And then I say, "Yeah, heaven will be like church." "Oh it's boring," she says. And you know, she asks this question when she's about 6 or 7, she's now 8 and you know what is sad is that a lot of us assume that heaven is like church, where you know this morning maybe you might have asked yourself, "Should we go? Should we not go?" Or when you go to holiday somewhere, "Ah should I go to church or should I not go to church." So church is kinda optional. And, "Ahhhhh let's go this weekend." And then next week, "Ahhh let's go three out of four, or two out four, or whatever." Let me just pause the sermon and run away, but just wait there, okay? Do you know that the most



important meeting in your life, in your week, is this one? The most important meeting in your life as a Christian, is this one. You cannot afford to miss this meeting. Whether you are here in Abbotsford or whether you're holidaying wherever you go with your family, you cannot afford to miss a Sunday morning with believers gathered together worshipping God. You cannot afford to miss this meeting. You can't. This is God's primary, primary tool for aiding you home. God's primary tool, you're gathered here, worshipping with other Christians here, this is the meeting you should never miss in a week. You may say, "Why?" Because you and I love the wrong things. We love the wrong things. We love our money, we love our stuff, we love our reputation, we love our looks, we love all sorts of things about ourselves and we love God less. And when you avoid this meeting you avoid hearing the Word of God being spoken to you, through music, through prayer, through the preaching of the Word. And as you miss that your idols get bigger and bigger and they cling to you more and more and more. You cannot afford to miss this meeting, it is a reminder that you are nothing, that God is your everything. End of soapbox, back to the sermon. [Laughter]

So, so my daughter asks this weird question right? And so I've been thinking about how do you respond to such a question, what will heaven be like? So when I came from Africa, so I left Africa, I went to Europe for about a year and then I came here to Canada, and so I got to Canada and I was going to school and some of my buddies were like, "Hey you know what," I was asking them, "So tell me what's great about Canada." Because the interesting part for you Canadians is this - people around the world know very little if anything about Canada, like Canada is like Switzerland, like do you know if Switzerland has a prime minister, do they have provinces? What's Switzerland about? You know Switzerland's a beautiful country and that's it. Canada, beautiful country, that's it! Maybe Justin Trudeau might be known, beyond that, yeah because Trump said some stuff about him, but beyond that nothing! We don't know, we don't know, the people in the world don't know anything about Canada. So I come to Canada and I ask, "Okay so tell me about Canada whatever." And then one of the students was like, all excited about Wayne Gretzky. And I'm, "Who's Wayne Gretzky?" The only Wayne I know of as an African is John Wayne, that's it! [Laughter] I don't know Wayne Gretzky? Like who is he? Like what does he do? So now imagine if my buddy who is all gaga about Wayne Gretzky comes and says, "Hey Ezra, why don't we go and spend the day in Wayne Gretzky's house?" I'd be like, "Ohh okay." We show up and Wayne Gretzky's, "Yeah okay, so yeah, he's Wayne Gretzky, well okay." So shake hands, he shows us around he shows us all this memorabilia, you see okay, okay yeah he plays hockey, and I'm like that is a weird field hockey stick. Like what kind of hockey? Oh ice hockey, oh there's a sport like ice hockey? Like I don't know? People in Africa don't play ice hockey, I mean there's no ice there. [Laughter] We don't play ice hockey. So you can show me all his memorabilia and the Stanley Cup ring so yeah that's a big ring, hmm that's a big ring, but whatever. Like it means nothing to me.

But let us say, that Ezra was born in Canada, and let us say that Ezra was born in Edmonton, and Ezra had this backyard where his dad made the backyard like he made the little temporary ice rink over the winter and Ezra was there shooting pucks every evening. He comes does his chores quick, he's out with his skates and he'll play and play and play. You could hardly get skates off, and Hockey Night in Canada when Edmonton is playing, Ezzy's glued to the screen, watching his superstar Gretzky do all



sorts of things and get stats galore. And you ask Ezra, “How many points did he get in the season?” He will rattle, “How many goals did he score against Vancouver?”

“This many.” He be looking for Gretzky’s hockey cards and all that every season, every season he’d be looking for the card and have all this memorabilia and then you know come to Ezra, who knows so much about Gretzky and you say, “Hey Ez, how about you go spend a day in Wayne Gretzky’s house?” What reaction would you expect from Ezra? [Laughter] Right? Like no words will express the joy that will be spewing out of Ezra as animated, his eyes will be there, “Wow!” And yes, there’ll be no sleeping the night before and then the limo would come and take Ezra and bring him to Gretzky’s, it’s a big house, wow. But it’s not about the house, it’s not about the pool and when he walks into the corridors, he sees all this memorabilia, this stick he used this to score his Stanley Cup goal and there’s the ring and everything and he’ll see all that stuff but it’s not about the stuff, it’s about Wayne. It’s not about the stuff that Wayne will give him, you know, here’s a jersey with my signature on it, and here’s the stuff Ezra and let’s go and have dinner, let me show you my house, let me show you where I train and practice. Yeah it’s not about the house it’s about, “I was with the guy. I was with him! Let’s take a selfie together.” It’s about Wayne, not about his stuff.

See when people wonder what heaven will be like and they would wonder, man will we have fun? Will it always be like church? Will it be boring? They just don’t know who is in heaven that well yet. They don’t know him yet. Because if they knew him, it will not be about the streets of gold. It’ll not be about the stuff, the abundance, no it will be about the one who’s there, and that’s the Lord. It’s just that we don’t know him that well yet. We love the wrong things, is the problem that you see in Joel 2:27, the Lord gives reasons, the Lord will give reasons for the restoration. So there was this locusts and military occupation and things were terrible and people repented and then the Lord restores and why, why does the Lord restore? Why does the Lord forgive this people? Is it because he really *loves* them and it’s all about the people? Not quite, Joel 2:27,

“Then you will know [I will restore, I will do all these things, then you know] that I am in Israel [in other words then you will know my presence is among you. Then you will know], that I am the Lord your God, and that there is no other;”

You will know that I’m in Israel, you’ll know that I’m the Lord *your* God and that there is no other. No other God. *No other God* who’ll bring you grace and joy and pleasure like I am. All your idols will not do it for you, they will not. I am the Lord and there is no other. The point is God is present with his people and God is sovereign and there is no other, this is the reason why. Why did he save you? Why did he send his son to die on the cross for you? Is it because he really really loves you? Yes of course, he loves you, but guess what, it ain’t about you. He died for you and me, he saved you so that you may know that his presence is among us, that you may know that he’s the Lord, your God, and there is no other who can redeem you and me from our folly and from our sin and then Joel will carry on in Joel 3:1, in the days, in the days to come now, this is not just, so Joel is speaking a few thousand years back and he’s not talking about in the days, like today, no he’s talking about the future, even our future, the days to come, during the judgement of the wicked that he’ll outline in Joel 3:2-16 through that judgement verse 16, “the Lord will be a refuge for his people.” So when the judgement is going on the chaos going on what we spoke about last week. What’s happening to his people when God is



busy judging and the language is so graphic like we saw last week. What will the Lord be doing to his people? The Lord will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel and note this it's not that God will be just a refuge for his people because his people are awesome. No, no, no, no, no, no the Lord is not dealing with them according to their wicked ways. It's like the nation of Israel in Egypt, remember the Exodus? And Israel was stuck in Egypt? Was it because Israel was more holy than Egypt? No. The Israelites were worshipping the same gods as Egypt, *same*! An Egyptian and an Israelite were the same in their worship, in their loves, in their everything, yet God decided to have mercy on Israel and judge Egypt. This is the same thing as you and I, when the judgement is happening in that day, you and I will see what the Lord is doing and how he's judging the wicked and you and I will be thinking to ourselves, man oh man oh man that could have been me, that could have been me, that could have been me, if it were not for the blood of Christ. There's nothing special about you and I, *nothing*, but the grace of God. The grace of God, the grace of God, the grace of God, all along the Lord will not deal with us according to our wicked ways and our corrupt deeds, he won't because of his grace the Lord will extend grace to us, why? Look at Joel 3:17, why?

“Then you will know that I, the Lord your God, dwell in Zion [meaning, you will know that my presence is with you, dwell in Zion], my holy hill. Jerusalem will be holy [holy how?there'll be no injustice, no evil, no wickedness, no corruption there]; never again will foreigners invade her.”

The Lord will say, Joel 3:20-21,

“Judah will be inhabited forever and Jerusalem through all generations. Shall I leave their innocent blood unavenged? No, I will not.’ The Lord dwells in Zion!”

The point here being, the Lord's presence will be with his people on that day and his presence is everything. It's like Wayne Gretzky to little Ezra who grew up in Edmonton cheering for this man, now here he is! His presence is everything to little Ezra. Same thing to a Christian. God's presence is everything to the Christian. Everything, why? Because we know what God has accomplished for us. We know what he has accomplished for us. And we'll see how his judging the wicked and we'll say, “Oh Lord if you do for your grace, I would have been him, I would have been her, I'd have been them, if it were not for your grace.”

[Emotional Healing]

The presence of God is everything and the benefits, the benefits of his presence will include, among other things emotional healing. Emotional healing, why do I say emotional healing. I say emotional healing because true justice will be served. Look at Joel 3:20-21,

“Judah will be inhabited forever and Jerusalem through all generations. [verse 21] Shall I leave their innocent blood unavenged?

You see there are many who follow Jesus, who will pay the price for following Christ. And they're many who have through our church history, paid the price for following Jesus. You see the Scriptures call us not to withdraw from our culture. The Scriptures call us not to assimilate but the Scriptures will call us to engage culture and proclaim Jesus. And in so doing there are those who become Christians



and they're those who will hate and oppress and when that happens the Lord is saying, "I will avenge when oppression comes." I will make right, it's not yours to fight back, I will make right. So if that is true, why, why are you not sharing Jesus with your neighbour, if that's true. Why are you shy of losing your job, losing your business, maybe even losing your life when it comes to sharing the Lord Jesus. Because you and I will say, man this is the best, the greatest news one could ever share right? This is life changing news. And yet what are we doing with it? We are sitting on it. Because we are afraid of losing our stuff or losing our relationships or being oppressed and persecuted. As though God is not going to avenge you. In Revelation 6:10 a passage I alluded to last week. They'll be many, there are many, this hour as we are seated here there are many in the throne room of God right in front of him and they're crying out to the Lord, "Lord how long before you avenge our blood? How long before you judge the inhabitants of the earth for what they've done." And the Lord will say, hey calm down, here's a white gown, your full number has not yet been complete. There are others who are yet to die like you have as they continue to proclaim. So why aren't you proclaiming? See the Lord has you, he has you here, he has given you a mission, Matthew 28:19-20, "Go make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything and I'll be with you always to the end of the age." While you're doing that, he will say, "Hey you know what I'm sending you as sheep among wolves. It's not going to go well for you. It's going to be scary, but guess what? I will avenge you."

[Ultimate Security]

So there is emotional healing, secondly there is ultimate security. In that day no one will now will come and oppress you anymore. No one will persecute you anymore, why? There is ultimate peace, why? Because the Lord dwells in Zion. His presence is among us. His presence is among us. Man you should be saying hallelujah there. I will close with a passage that has already been read by the worship band. But it's worth hearing again, Revelation 21:1-7, these are the words of John who saw and wrote this. He said,

"Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death" or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.' [verse 5] He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!' Then he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.' He said to me: 'It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.'"

If you are here and you don't know Jesus, you need to know this Lord. You *need* to know this Lord. The Scriptures say today is the day of salvation. Today, not tomorrow, not this afternoon. *Now!* Today is the day of salvation. If you're hearing his still, small voice knocking in your heart, man you need to



respond and you may ask so how do I do that? The worship band will be here after. Paul Siemens the MC will be after, or better yet, if you don't know who to talk to, go to the Info Booth that is at the back at the end of the service and ask anyone there, can I talk to someone about what being a Christian looks like. And they'll be more than happy to connect you with someone who can explain this to you in very clear and simple terms. You need to know Jesus, that this peace may be yours. Let us pray.

Father for your grace we are thankful. We thank you Lord that our story ends well, not because we are awesome but because Lord of what you have done for us. And so Father we pray in Jesus name, particularly for those who are here in our midst who don't know you, Lord I pray that your Spirit would continue to woo them and draw them in Father. And for us, Lord I pray that you'd help us to live our lives in a manner worthy of the gospel, knowing that our future is bright that our story ends well, all because of what Christ has accomplished. May we look forward to this great day, the day when you come to make all things beautiful. Commend these things to you now in Jesus' name, and God's people said. Amen.