

Service Overview

Speaker: Kathy Bates

Sermon Series: History Makers

Message: History Makers - Caleb

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Pre-Worship Welcome *Speaker: Worship Team*

Good morning. Welcome to a Parramatta Baptist Church. We're going to start our service with worship. So let us stand. The Bible says that God so loved the world he gave his only son, so we're going to praise that with our voices.

Worship Singing

Song: God So Loved (Live At The Wheelhouse) by Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash

Song: Reign Above It All by Ethan Hulse, Hannah McClure, Jess Cates, Paul McClure

Song: King of Kings by Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, Scott Ligertwood

Post-Worship Prayer *Speaker: Stephen Bates*

So now God the Father, we bring you praise. We come here this morning, with hearts and minds that perhaps are distracted by things of this week. But, we choose to set our hearts and minds now on you, and to think of your goodness and your greatness, and to be reminded of all that you've done for us. Father, thank you that as we gather together, your spirit is present here with us, and he will point us to you.

And we thank you for one another as well, that as we stand and as we worship, as we engage with and pray for one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, Lord, that you will strengthen and encourage us by being in this place together this morning. And father, may all that's done and said and sung and thought, bring glory to your name. In Christ's name we ask this, amen.

Service Welcome *Speaker: Stephen Bates*

Good morning everyone. Please feel free to take a seat and welcome to Parramatta Baptist Church. It's lovely to have you all here. If you are new or newish to the life of our church, it's lovely that you've joined us. Please, just a reminder, if you are new or if you have a prayer point, at the back of the church, we have a little response card. And, if you fill that in and give us your details, we can connect you in with what's happening in the life of our church via the e-newsletter. But it's also an opportunity to provide any prayer points as well.

Now, why don't you turn around, say hi to someone, particularly if you don't know who they are? Introduce yourselves. That would be good.

--- Break as congregation greets one another ---

Right. If I can draw us back, that would be great. Just want to start by thanking firstly those who are joining us online. Thank you so much for joining us. We enjoy that. Not only is our church able to meet in person, but those who aren't able to be here in person can also continue to engage in what's going on. So welcome to our service.

Commissioning *Speaker: Stephen Bates*

This is a bittersweet day, a bittersweet day of actually farewelling. But, also there's a sense of celebration in what God has done and what God will continue to do in your lives. Ben, it's been a joy and a privilege to have known you and to watch you develop into the man that you are today.

I won't go into memories of you as a kid or anything like that, or as a teenager, but just to say it's been a joy just to see you come into different volunteer roles and then take on the commitment of being an intern for 12 months. Then you stepped into Kim's* second maternity role, and then just continue in that role, as Kim decided she wasn't going to come back from maternity leave. And just, congratulations on completion of your studies and congratulations on also being accepted by the Baptist Association as an accredited pastor.

And there is a coronation that will occur later in the year, I understand, something like that. August, did you say September? Something like that. So that that's wonderful. But there's just so much that I've appreciated about you. And I think this has been my consistent experience of you. You treat people with such great respect.

You listen well, and you have this love to walk with people in their lives. So you don't just have a conversation and forget, you are the kind of person who remembers, and you continue to walk with them. And that's a really lovely thing. There is a genuine humility to you. There's a genuine love and care that comes out from you.

And I think it's fair to say that people of all ages, it's not just that young people, young adults or kids are drawn to that that pastoral heart that you have. You really are a pastoral pastor, and that's a good thing. You're an encourager. You're often the first person who will say, "great sermon, Steve," after I preach and you're a bringer of joy as well.

The smile is never too far from your face. I have no doubt that you will be a blessing to your new church for all of those reasons, and I am excited for the opportunities that it will present. Also, just the new experiences that it will bring, of being in a different church, a different sized church and a church that does things differently.

It'll be an exciting experience, so remember that when it doesn't feel right, this is an exciting process of learning new things. And you've been such a gift, and I'm so glad that the two of you (Ben & Hannah*) found each other, because that meant that you became part of our church, and you've become much loved here as well, particularly amongst young adults and the young people.

The evening service is where we mostly find you, but I love the way that your hearts are inclined to be very similar. So if you don't know Hannah, there is a kindness and a gentleness to her, that is just

beautiful and light. You treat people with just great respect. And I've really appreciated getting to know you, and just the impact that you've had in the culture of this place. So thank you.

We not only farewell you this morning, but I also want you to understand that you leave this place with our blessing. So this is, in a sense, also a bit of a commissioning. We want to commission you to the ministry at your new church.

The passage that came to me as I was thinking about this, a little out of context, but it's from Philippians 1:1-8 and it says, 'I thank my God every time I remember you in all my prayers for all of you or both of you. I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. Being confident in this that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ.'

And I think we have confidence that that is what Christ will do in your lives. There are a couple of things we'd love to present you with before you go. So, I'll start with a small one, and you know about this one. So Ben has two weeks off before he commences at the new church, and so we have found a little getaway up in the Blue Mountains, in Wentworth Falls, for next weekend. And so this is the first part. This is a gift from the church to you.

And this was done by one of our young adults. This is a collection of stories and thank yous. Thank you to everybody who contributed to this book. I know some didn't get an opportunity to, and so there is a table just immediately in the foyer, with some, paper, and you'll be able to find a pen as well. And so if you want to contribute to that, you're welcome to write something and contribute to that as well. Did you want to say something, Ben?

Message from Ben

Thanks, Steve. Yeah, I don't know. We just want to say thank you. I came to this church in 2010, I think it was. That's 14 years ago with my family, and, yeah, I have a lot of memories in this place. And actually looking back as well, I can see a lot of good memories, with all the people in this room as well. And then we just wanna say thank you. As Steve said, like being a kid here, and I was going to kids church and not wanting to be part of it, but, you know, Jill* still lead me and loved me as best as she could.

And then I'm going to youth and you know, really enjoying coming along to the church all of a sudden., and, you know, going through the young adults, and staying here late into the night with people eating Macca's after the service. The first time coming up here and preaching. There's just so many good memories here, and we're also really excited to go to our new church.

We're really excited to see what God has in store for us there. Really feels like God's in this. And we can't wait to see what he does there. But you have to know as well that there's a real sadness in leaving PBC as well. it's somehow both we're both really excited for the future, but also really sad to

be going from a place like this because of what it means to us and because of what all of you guys mean to us as well.

So yeah, we want to say thank you, and we're really glad to know that even though we'll be going to another church, we still have a hundred people here who love us and are looking after us as well.

Steve

We'd just like to pray for you, so maybe if you could stand down here, and then the other Ben is going to come and lead us off in prayer. But if there are some other people, if you've been connected with Ben and engaged in friendship or as part of ministry, could you please.

Other Ben

Heavenly father, you, you are Lord of all. And you reign above all things. You are head over this church, Parramatta Baptist Church and of the fullness of your church around the world. You are the one who sends workers out into the field and so as Ben and Hannah leave, Lord, we know that you are sending them into a new field.

We thank you for the time that we've had with them here. Thank you for your intentional giftings and callings on their lives. Thank you for the young people they've invested into in this space, and for the beautiful example of humble service that they leave in their wake. Lord we're going to miss this brother and sister, but we entrust them into your safe hands and pray your feeling and anointing and blessing over them.

Lord, would you nourish them in their needs, in the expected challenges and the unforeseen ones? Be the provider from whom they receive all they need and bless their marriage as they seek you and serve you together. May they find great strength together and know the safety of your arms as you protect them from any works of the enemy.

And Lord, would you provide the way before them as they discern their new roles? May your voice be louder than all the others. May your voice, your vision, be their vision, your heart be their higher priority. Lord, prepare those who they are going to serve and empower them to make you known in increasing glory.

And Lord, with change it can be daunting with many unknowns. And in this we thank you that you are unchanging. Your faithfulness stands all tests. Your goodness is never failing. Your forgiveness is complete for all time in your presence is constant. You are the only one worth building our lives on. So we pray that in this moment, the both Ben and Hannah would find great comfort and find their confidence in you. And so, father, we ask your blessing upon them both. Will we commission them and reaffirm the call that you have upon their lives? Yeah. May they have the joy of seeing people come to know you, of seeing lives transformed, and of being part of seeing your kingdom come. In Christ's name we pray this. Amen. Thank you.

Announcements & Upcoming Events *Speaker: Ben*

Good morning, everyone, wonderful to be with you. My name is Ben, and I'm one of the pastors here, and I just have a really quick announcement that I wanted to share with you, even though it's holidays. I really wanted to share this with you because it's coming up, and that is that Arise, our Youth Camp, is only a month or so away. We're heading away on May 24 to May 26, and it's going to be a wonderful weekend.

So I have a few reasons for sharing this with you. One is you might be a parent of a child who's in high school, and for you, the invitation is to come and actually register your child for that. There's registration links on our website, or I can make that happen for you if you come up and if you have any questions, I can let you know the answers to those. That's if you're a parent or if you're a young person nudging mom and dad, going, 'hey, I need to sign up for youth camp.'

But for everyone else in the room, I actually want to invite you into actively being a part of supporting what happens at youth camp, because these are great fun. This is an example of the fun that we get off to the great fun weekends. But they're very much geared toward the mission of sharing Jesus with our young people. On our youth camps, we make awesome memories, but we also see people give their lives to Jesus for the first time.

We see people committing their lives again and again and again in really profound ways, and experiencing and encountering God in worship. And so youth camps are amazing and they are awesome, so we actually want the whole church supporting us. There's two really practical ways to do that. Firstly, we have that 46 kids who are already signed up for camp, and we have more who we would love to bring along but can't come along because they just can't afford it. So if you're in the space at all to actually sponsor a kid or sponsor part of a ticket for a kid, come and have a conversation with me, because we'd love to get all of our kids on camp who want to be there regardless of their means.

Does that make sense? Yeah. So that's the invitation. If you're in the place where you're actually able to do that, come and have the conversation with me after the service this morning. The second piece is that we'd really just invite your prayer, and your intercession over camp, over all of our leaders, over the kids who we're going to join us, over the speakers as they prep their talks, over the game leaders as they prep their games and everything will be safe, that everything would be smooth, and then ultimately, everything would bring God glory. So those are the two things. If you want to sponsor a kid, come and have a chat. And we'd just love for you to pray. You don't have to tell us you're praying. Do behind the scenes. You can tell us you're praying and will encourage our leaders in that way.

Sermon: History Makers - Caleb *Speaker: Kathy Bates*

All right, well, I'm Kathy, I'm one of the pastors here. It is so good to have each and every one of you here. I want to introduce you to my three lovely assistants today, Henry*, Brianna* and Emma*. Would you guys stand up and can you say a big thank you already? These guys are going to help me as we unpack this Bible story today.

So I have a question for you, that I want you to discuss between yourselves – who is a character you admire in history and why? Who is a character in history?

--- Break as congregation discusses ---

Well, today we're commencing a new series that is going to look at some of the lesser known characters in the Bible. And they don't carry the Sunday school celebrity status like Moses and Abraham do, and yet they were really significant. But, you know, it's not just what they did, it's also their character and convictions in what they do.

And so the history maker that we're unpacking today is Caleb. And we first come across Caleb in Numbers 13. And just a heads up, as I unpack this story, just listen for what stands out to you about Caleb, because I'm going to give you an opportunity to chat partway through this message about what has stood out to you from him or the story itself.

Now, the context is, that Moses has led the people from Egypt, and now they're standing on the very edge of the land that God has promised them. But in order to get there, they had seen God do miracle after miracle. And so they had seen God convince Pharaoh to let God's people go. They had seen God part the Red Sea and usher his people safely through while the Egyptians could not cross. They had seen God provide miraculously food and water for them. They had seen God in the absence of Google Maps. They had seen God lead them, but with a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night. There was absolutely no doubt that God had led his people time and time again. And so now they're right at the edge of the land that God had promised on the border of Canaan.

In Numbers 13, 'the Lord said to Moses, "send some men to explore Canaan," which I am giving to the Israelites.'" My people hear that God says, "I am giving them this land." God instructs them, "send one leader from each of the 12 tribes of Israel." And so Caleb is the leader from Judah. Caleb and 11 other key leaders from the 12 tribes set out to explore the land of Canaan.

But just to be very, very clear, this mission was not to assess if they should take the land. This was not a feasibility study where they were to decide whether they would proceed or not. God had promised them this land. Their mission was simply to explore the land. Henry, would you read to us Numbers 13:17- 20, please?

When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, "go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. See what the land is like, and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they walled or fortified? How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not?" Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land. (It was a season for the first ripe grapes.)

And did you know, too, that the path that God instructed them to take up through the Negev to the hill country was actually the same path that God had originally instructed Abraham to take all those generations earlier? So, along with the blessing of becoming a vast nation, Abraham was also instructed by God to do exactly what these 12 leaders were ordered to go and do, to walk the length and the breadth of the land, because God said, "I am giving it to you." In the course of their six week journey, the 12 leaders reached a place called Hebron.

And you know, this was the plot of land that Abraham had originally bought. This was the place where Abraham and his son, Isaac, and his son Jacob and their wives were all buried. Caleb and the 11 others, as they walk the land of Hebron, are walking this sacred land that had been part of their ancestry. And this was like, oh, can you imagine?

This is part of God's original promise to them as his people, the land of their forefathers, where they had lived and loved, walked and worshiped, believed, and obeyed. Life hadn't been easy for them, but God had been faithful to them. Has anyone had the opportunity to visit a place, where your ancestors lived? Like as anyone had that opportunity? Some of you have.

Back in 2007, Steve and I visited Estonia for the first time and I have to say, to walk the streets where my grandmother had walked and to stand in front of her family home, like, I actually remember walking through this little alleyway. And as I did, like there was this sense in me of 'I know this place.'

You see, I had pored over my grandmother's photos, as a child, and this was my photo in 2007, and this was her photo from almost 100 years previously. And then to stand...I still remember standing in front of her family home, this home where she grew up. And now I can't even begin to tell you just how profoundly moved I was.

I think I stood there just weeping as tourists passed by, and they must have wondered, 'what the Dickens is with her?' You know, but just how profoundly moved I was. But more than that, just how profoundly connected I felt to this place that I had never been.

I wonder if part of the reason why God instructed the 12 to explore the land in the very region that they forefathers had been and lived was to awaken a sense of belonging in them. This land was theirs. And I suspect that, God also intended it to strengthen their faith that the land was as good as God has promised.

You see, when God originally called Moses to lead the people to Canaan, he told them that that this was a land flowing with milk and honey, a land of fertile abundance. And sure enough, what did the 12 discover? Henry read it to us. We're told that they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes, and it took two of them to carry it on a pole between them. Like that's a really impressive cluster of grapes, right? And they're really impressive.

Well, Caleb and the crew finished the mission, and they report back to Moses and all the people. And you would hope that these 12 leaders would have been bolstered in their faith that they might say, 'guys, the land is every bit as good as God has promised. And you know, this is the land where we belong because we felt it.' And we know the promise. Well, 10 of the 12 go part of the way. Brianna, would you read the next part of the story for us?

They gave Moses this account. "We went into the land which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey. Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites live in the Negev. The Hittite, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country, and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan."

So they go part of the way. 10 of the 12 say the land is abundant, but you know, we need to watch out for butts when it comes to God's promises. The butts in our lives undermine our faith to believe the things that God has said. Buts arise when we look at things from a human perspective that fails to take into account the power, the faithfulness, and the kindness of God. 10 of the 12 lost sight of their mission. Rather than holding tight to God's promise that this land was theirs, and remembering the incredible things that they had seen God do, they took their eyes from God, and instead they focused on the giants.

The people and the fortified cities seemed too big and too hard. They turned the faith strengthening mission into a feasibility study, leaving God out of the equation based on their own mind and power, driven by fear, they report back, "we can't do this." Emma, can you read the next part of the story?

But the men who had gone with him said, "We can't attack those people. They are stronger than we are." And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw that are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there, the descendants of Enoch. We seem like grasshoppers in our own eyes and we look the same to them."

You know, it was only Caleb who reported back with faith.

Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, we should go up and take possession of the land for we can certainly do it. Don't hear that this is bravado. You know, when Caleb says we can do

it, he wasn't meaning we can do it in our own mind and power. This wasn't bravado. This was faith in God. In Joshua 14 :8, Caleb actually describes what was going on for him when he brought this report. He said, "for my part. I wholeheartedly followed the Lord my God. To my part, I wholeheartedly followed the Lord my God."

It takes a lot of courage to be the lone voice that stands up for what is right, and that leads with faith in what God can do, rather than our own human assessment of a situation. Does it not?

Well, before we explore some of the challenges and encouragements that come out of this story, let's look at how the episode concludes. So what happens when 10 of the 12 of Israel's most influential leaders are united in a voice that speaks fear, exaggeration, and impossibility to the people they lead?

That night, all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "if only we had died in Egypt or in this wilderness! Why is the Lord bringing us to this land, only to last for a while, so our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" And they said to each other, "we should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

Fear breeds fear. Lack of faith breeds resignation and despair. Caleb and Joshua give it one last shot, appealing to God's people.

Joshua and Caleb, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "the land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us only. Do not rebel against the Lord, and do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

Tearing their clothes was an ancient expression of grief. Can you imagine for a moment how they must have felt? They know that God keeps his promises. Caleb and Joshua know that God has given them the land. They have seen miracle after miracle to get them to this point, they have experienced the heart connection that they have to this land where they belong. They know how good the land is, and yet the people have bought into fear and they would rather return to Egypt.

Can you imagine Caleb and Joshua's disappointment and despair at the people's choice at this point? You know, that would be like, you'd really rather go back to slavery? You kidding me?

Well, God's response to the people's lack of faith in him to fulfill the promise that he had given them so very clearly, was anger. And so as punishment, they would wander in the desert for 40 years until all of them, except Caleb and Joshua, died. And so what could have been just an 11 day journey from Egypt to Canaan actually took a long and painful 40 years. And it was just because of their

disobedience and their refusal to trust God. When we don't do things God's way, we make life so much harder for ourselves, so much harder than how God intends it to be.

So what I'd love you to do is at this point, gather in groups of 3 or 4, and I would love you to just share what stands out to you about Caleb, or what has stood out to you about the story.

--- Break as congregation discusses Caleb ---

Well, there are two things that stood out to me and challenged me. Some of you might have picked up on some of these as well. But firstly, for me, Caleb saw with eyes of faith and confidence in God, didn't he? Now, during that 40 day exploration, it would have been easy for him to only have seen what the other 10 saw.

Tall, well-built, well-equipped people who knew how to fight. You know, we each choose what we focus on. If we choose to focus on situations and circumstances or even the asks that God makes of us from a purely human perspective, that just weighs up only what we feel like we're able to do, then at best, we may miss the things that God has for us.

At worst, we will be blatantly disobedient to him. So what does it mean to see our circumstances or our God given asks through eyes of faith? Now for Caleb, it meant remembering the ways that he'd seen God work in the past. The same God who had delivered them from Egypt was with them now on the border of Canaan.

How have you seen God's past provision in your life, or in the lives of people around you? What have you experienced of his character, even when things haven't gone the way that you've hoped? Who do you know God to be from His word? We need to regularly remind of ourselves of those things when new situations arise for us in life so that we don't just weigh up new situations just purely from our human perspective, assessing our ability or our resources for things that are ahead of us.

But rather we ask, what might God be able to do in this situation? What is he calling me to trust him for here? What could he do through me in this? Even though I feel inadequate?

For Caleb, eyes of faith also meant looking for evidence that confirmed what God had promised as well. So he focused on the giant cluster of grapes, not the people giants. We need to focus on what God is doing, not on what is not going right. For those of us who are strongly rational, I think we need to guard against our natural pathway that our brain takes where, you know, we rely on our own logic and reasoning.

I'm one of those people, you know, and so it can be really easy for us to just choose the path that seems right in our own eyes. I've been reading from Isaiah in my times with the Lord just recently,

and I was reading from Isaiah 50:58-9 where it says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are my ways your ways," declares the Lord, "as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts."

In recent weeks, we've been exploring sitting with God at the table, you know, and sitting at the table with God represents a place where we step away from the doing in order to be with God. And I think it's in those places that we create where we are able to be with him, that we remind ourselves we have enough margin to be able to look at what our circumstances are and to remind ourselves of who God really is in the things that are before us. So we're not just praying 'help me' prayers on the way through, but we're actually garnering our strength and bolstering our confidence in who God is and choosing obedience to him.

So the first thing that challenges me about Caleb is that he saw with the eyes of faith. The second thing that stands out to me is that he chose the voices that he listened to. You know, if you're in a group where 10 of the 12 strongest leaders of Israel, the most influential guys in Israel, 10 of them are saying, "we can't do this."

That's pretty persuasive, isn't it? It's hard to hold to your convictions when you're the minority voice, isn't it? Caleb's determination to weigh up what they were saying and to choose instead to trust what God had said should inspire us. For us, one of the realities I think of living in a digital age is that we are surrounded by so many voices, it's no longer just the voice of those who are physically present in our lives.

It's the voices of those on our screens, you know, who are influencing us in ways that we aren't often even aware of. John Mark Comer talks about us being at our most vulnerable last thing at night before we go to sleep, and also first thing in the morning when we wake up. Who are the voices that you allow into that space when your guard is down?

And for those of us who reach for our smartphones, just be aware of the voices that you're allowing to speak into your life when you are at your most vulnerable. The voices that you're allowing to speak into your soul, who shape you in ways that are really subtle. Are they strengthening your resolve to walk in the ways of Jesus? Are they helping you hold fast to the convictions that you have from his Word?

But of course, it's not just when we're in bed. Run the voices that you are choosing to expose yourself to at other times through this filter as well. What is the messaging of the news that you listen to? What is the messaging that comes through your radio station or music, or on social media? What's the messaging of the things that you're watching, the friends that you spend time with? Because much of those things we get to choose the voices that speak into us.

So choose voices that build up, because there will be plenty of times when we don't get to choose the voices that speak over us. Walking out our Christian convictions in a secular world takes a lot of resolve, so let's not make it more difficult for ourselves by surrounding ourselves with voices and giving airtime to voices that are counter to our faith more than we need to.

We'll come back full circle to where we begin. The people who go down in history as having left a mark in God's salvation story are those who don't just go with the flow of what everyone else is doing, nor those who buy into the secular voices of our culture. The people who make a difference are those with a Caleb type spirit who choose to trust God, who will stand up for what is right even when the other voices aren't in agreement with them.

Those who choose to see what God sees, those who choose to listen to him ahead of the other voices. Caleb said, "As for my part, I wholeheartedly followed the Lord my God," may that be true of us.

Post-Sermon Prayer *Speaker: Kathy Bates*

Let's pray. God, we just want to thank you so much for Caleb. We thank you for his faith and his resolve that he, together with Joshua, Lord, stood the course. They trusted you and Lord God, I just want to pray for each one of us.

Lord, help us to stand in a culture that increasingly is moving away from Christian values and morals being at the centre of where we are. Help us to stand true to the things that you say. Help us to know how to be the voice that speaks and encourages others around us. Help us to recognise when we're giving airtime to that which actually is compromising our resolve.

Lord God, I just want to pray for each of us, Lord, that we would be found faithful to you, that we would honor you and God, I want to thank you that the path that you have for us is good and is full of life. And so, Lord, I pray that we would choose your path. Amen.

Let us stand.

Worship Singing

Song: O Praise The Name by Benjamin Hastings, Dean Ussher, Marty Sampson

Conclusion *Speaker: Stephen Bates*

So as we walk into this week, let's do so with courage, with a real faithfulness to that which God has called us to be and to do, and with the hope and the confidence of God's presence with us through His Holy Spirit. And so, Father, we thank you for your word. We thank you for your spirit, and we thank you for one another and the encouragement that we can be.

Lord, maybe they don't make history in the world's eyes, but, God, may we live lives that make a difference in the story that you're unfolding of your kingdom for your glory. Lord, may this be so. Amen.

Big invitation to join us for morning tea. And if you are new, please feel free to say so, I would love to get to know who you are.

And also, there's an invitation for prayer. Every Sunday there are a number of people down the front, and they would love to pray for you. Maybe something that's come out of today, but maybe there's just something that you really sense that the Lord would love to bless or encourage or strengthen you with.

We would love to pray with you. God bless you all. See you next week.

Online Outro *Speaker: Kathy Bates*

Hey, thank you for joining us online today. We pray that you have been blessed and encouraged. And if there is something from today that you would like us to pray into with you, don't hesitate to let us know.

If we haven't met you, we'd love to hear from you. And you also welcome to come and join us in person as well. To know more about our church, please go to our church website and you can also find more details about who we are through our newsletter. And you can subscribe to that through our website as well.

God bless you and may you have a great week.

**Names have been changed to protect privacy.*