

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 23.11.25

PREACHER: PS NATHAN BEAN

True Worship and the Sacrifice of Praise

BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

*BEING [HEART], THINKING [MIND] & **DOING [BODY]***

[A PERSONAL REFLECTION]

Conviction of a Disciple:

A disciple offers God a worship that costs something—setting aside preference, distraction, and self-effort to draw near through the finished work of Christ. True worship begins in His presence and flows outward in love, forming us into a family that reflects His heart.

OVERVIEW

Through Jesus, we have been given full access to God's presence. We don't come through priests or rituals, but through the torn curtain of His body. Worship, then, is not performance but presence. It costs us something—not money, but surrender. The "sacrifice of praise" is the gift of our undivided heart. In this place, we are cleansed, softened, and formed into a community that spurs one another toward love and good deeds.

ACTION

Q1. What personal distractions or preferences could you lay down before entering worship this week?

Q2. How has God's presence softened your heart toward others in the church family?

Q3. Who in your life helps "spur you on" toward love and good deeds?

THOUGHT

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 10:11-25 | Psalm 100 | Romans 12:1-2

The life of worship was never meant to be convenient. It is designed to be costly. The “sacrifice of praise” is what we bring when we set aside our distractions, our preferences, even our pride, and come before God, laying down our whole selves.

Under the old covenant, only one priest could enter the Most Holy Place once a year. To do so, he stepped through layers of separation that existed between God and the people to enter into God’s presence. But when Jesus breathed His last, those layers were torn, and the invitation was extended: Come in. All of you. The presence that had dwindled down to one has now been reopened to all who draw near through Christ.

But how easily we forget! We return to our own small temples, our own rituals of self-sufficiency, performances of worth, and the safety of our tradition and preferences. But God does not want our polished offerings; He wants our honest ones. He wants worship that costs something—the surrender of control, the admission of weakness, the courage to look within and let Him heal what’s hardened.

It is here, in the Most Holy Place, that transformation takes shape. Here, our guilt is washed away, our hearts are softened, and our posture toward others is re-formed. We become people capable of real love—the kind that cleans up messes that aren’t ours, that provokes rather than flatters, that forgives before being asked. In truth, the offering God desires is not one pointed towards Him, but one that is turned to friend, neighbour, and most importantly, our enemies.

True worship: not songs alone, but a surrendered heart and a shared life of grace and gift. It is not about a Sunday songlist, but a daily offering—our bodies, our choices, our community—poured out for His glory and the glory of God recognised in each other.

In a world obsessed with preference and self-service, worship pulls us back to Presence. To worship Jesus rightly is to look along Him at God and neighbour, and see in and with and through them, everything else. Jesus simply will not allow us to gaze at him alone. He redirects our gaze so that we see ourselves and one another differently, gracefully.

DISCUSSION

[A GROUP REFLECTION]

- 1) What does a “sacrifice of praise” look like in your daily rhythm of life?
- 2) How does entering God’s presence transform your relationships with others?
- 3) How can our church continue to grow as a loving, grace-filled family rather than a religious institution?

PRAYER

Jesus,
You are our great High Priest and final sacrifice. Teach us to bring You worship that costs something—our pride, our distractions, our need for control. Soften our hearts in Your presence, cleanse our conscience, and knit us together in love. May our gathered worship be a dwelling for Your glory.
Amen.