



WELCOME

BIBLE READINGS

1 John 1

CONFESSING OUR SIN

We recently celebrated Easter and considered the cross of our Lord, where He died for our sins and those of the whole world. Last week we focused on humanity and the amazing glory which God had bestowed on people. This week we continue looking at what it means to be human and will be directing our thoughts at the Biblical claim that humans are sinful. Sin is not a popular topic, but it is essential that we do not ignore this dimension of human existence if we want to understand our relationship with God.

As there are still many cases of Covid around and as we do have many vulnerable people in our midst we will ask that you still continue to use your mask - especially when singing. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

What's happening?

There will be **no Sundays@6 tonight**.

Lark will be open from Tuesday to Saturday between 7.30am and 2.30pm. If you would like to help in any way, please speak to Chad or Anik.

**PRESS
START**



TUESDAY - CRAFT

THURSDAY - MAINLY MUSIC

Bible Study @ 7pm

*FRIDAY - JAPANESE KIDS'
OUTREACH*

Bible Study @ 6pm

The confession of sins

We do not always consider the public confession of sins as an intrinsic part of corporate worship. When we look for modern worship songs to express our sin and guilt before God, we are not exactly spoiled for choice. Many people do not see the confession of sin as a necessary element in the worship service. Worship, they believe, should reflect the good news about Jesus and start from the salvation which we now possess in and through him. But, as we have seen, our confession of sin, is nothing more than the practical outworking of the good news we have come to believe.

Through our confession of sin, we enact the good news that we may come to God, and may continue to come to him, as sinners, "just as we are", saved by grace alone. In church, we do not have to play the hypocrite, pretending that everything is fine when in reality it is not. We don't have to make out that we have been faithful to God when we have failed him through our actions and in our thoughts. We can dare to be who we are before God, the Holy One and each other. Any public confession of sin does not achieve anything in regards to our standing before God but is the act by which we confess to being captured anew by God's love and filled with revulsion for evil and sin in our lives.

There are at least two ways; I would suggest, in which the confession of sin can play a more significant role in our worship services. The first one is a general, corporate confession to God, to each other, to ourselves and the world, saying that the church is

the meeting of sinners celebrating God's grace.

Traditional formal liturgies often include such a confession. We need to be careful, however, that the confession of sin does not become just another part of the ritual, thereby stripping it of its power as a genuine heartfelt confession. For the confession of sin not to become just another dead ritual, the church should develop alternative and fresh ways for believers to acknowledge their transgressions. We may use these disclosures of our sinfulness at different times during the worship service. An example of such a declarative confession is:

This morning we declare to the world and each other that we meet here, not as those who are somehow better than people who do not believe in Christ. We meet here as individuals who are broken, tainted and tempted by sin. But we also meet here as people who can be open to our God the Holy One. We may dare to come to him just as we are. We gather under the cross of Jesus, which exemplifies our guilt and shame. And yet we meet here joyfully, to celebrate God's grace and to praise him for his forgiveness, which allows us to start afresh today.

A declarative confession can also take the form of a prayer:

Father, we confess that we, who have gathered in your name, do so as sinners, unwilling to obey your commands. We admit that we often come to church seeking to be blessed rather than to bless. We acknowledge that our gathering in your name is often marked by petty grudges that we hold against each other, even while we trust you to forgive us unreservedly for our wrongdoings. We confess that our eyes are often blind to our faults and small power plays. We pray that through this encounter with you, the Holy One, we will see the expanse of your grace, and be transformed to live differently.

The church's liturgy may facilitate such confessions by creating a time for the silent confession of particular sins to God in the midst of songs and prayers of praise and gratitude. On other occasions, confession of sin may take place as part of the church's pastoral care to its members.

The Word that gives life
was from the beginning,
and this is the one
our message is about.

Our ears have heard,
our eyes have seen,
and our hands have touched
this Word.

2 The one who gives life appeared! We saw it happen, and we are witnesses to what we have seen. Now we are telling you about this eternal life that was with the Father and appeared to us. 3 We are telling you what we have seen and heard, so you may share in this life with us. And we share in it with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 We are writing to tell you these things, because this makes us truly happy.

5 Jesus told us God is light and doesn't have any darkness in him. Now we are telling you.

6 If we say we share in life with God and keep on living in the dark, we are lying and are not living by the truth. 7 But if we live in the light, as God does, we share in life with each other. And the blood of his Son Jesus washes all our sins away. 8 If we say we have not sinned, we are fooling ourselves, and the truth isn't in our hearts. 9 But if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.

10 If we say we have not sinned, we make God a liar, and his message isn't in our hearts.

Our pastors' phone numbers if you have anything which you would like to discuss or for which you seek prayer.

**Andre 0418263602
Chad 0403839558
Anik 0425566443**