

AUGUST 9, 2026

We Believe...
GOOD NEWS!

We Belong to Jesus



SERMON RESOURCE



OUR LITURGY

*The Lord is here. His Spirit is with us.
And where the Spirit of the Lord is -
There is freedom!*

CONNECT

— 10 MINUTES

ALLIANCE STATEMENT

The universal Church, of which Christ is the Head, consists of all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, regenerated by the Holy Spirit, and commissioned by Christ to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the Gospel to all nations.

- When you hear the word church, what is the first thing that comes to mind?
 - A building? An institution? A denomination? Particular people?
- Share about a time when the Church felt most like a family to you. What made that experience meaningful?

REVIEW

— 30 MINUTES

Read Ephesians 1:15-23

Paul prays that believers would have “the eyes of their hearts enlightened.”

- Why do you think Paul prays for spiritual vision instead of simply more information?
- What stood out to you from Sunday’s message?

CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

Read Matthew 28:18-20 and John 15:1-8.

The message emphasized that the Church belongs to Jesus before it belongs to us.

- Why is this good news?
- What happens when churches—or individual Christians—begin relying on their own strength instead of remaining connected to Christ?
- Jesus says, “Apart from me you can do nothing.” What does abiding in Christ look like in your everyday life?

THE CHURCH IS CREATED BY GRACE

Read Titus 3:3–7 and 1 Peter 2:9–10.

The sermon described redemption as being rescued from our old life and regeneration as being made alive by the Holy Spirit.

- Why is it important that the Church is created by God's grace rather than human effort?
- How does remembering that everyone enters God's family the same way shape the way we treat one another?
- Which truth feels easier to believe:
 - Christ has redeemed me.
 - The Holy Spirit is making me new
 - Why?

THE CHURCH IS UNIVERSAL

Read Revelation 7:9–12 and Galatians 3:26–29.

The universal Church includes believers from every nation, generation, culture, and denomination who belong to Jesus.

- How does this change the way we think about "our church"?
- Why do you think unity in Christ is so compelling in today's culture?
- How can we celebrate what God is doing beyond our own congregation?

THE CHURCH IS SENT

Read John 20:21 and Acts 1:8.

The message reminded us that mission is not something the Church does—it is part of who the Church is.

- What makes sharing your faith feel intimidating?
- The sermon described witness as simply telling the truth about what you've experienced with Jesus. How does that definition change your understanding of evangelism?
- Where might God already be at work in your neighbourhood, workplace, school, or family?

APPLICATION

— 30 MINUTES

Spend a few moments praying through these questions individually before sharing together.

- Is there an area of my life where I've treated Jesus more like an advisor than my Lord?
- Where do I need to receive God's grace instead of trying to prove myself?
- Who is one person God may already be inviting me to love, pray for, or have a spiritual conversation with this week?

Then pray together for one another.

Choose one practice this week:

- Begin each morning by praying, "Jesus, You are the Head of my life. Lead me today."
- Reach out to one person in your church family with encouragement, prayer, or hospitality.
- Pray daily for one person who doesn't yet know Jesus, asking the Holy Spirit to show you where He is already at work and how you can join Him.

GOING DEEPER

— 30 MINUTES

This week, slowly read Ephesians 1-2.

As you read, look for everything Paul says about:

- Who Jesus is.
- Who the Church is.
- What God has done for His people by grace.
- What it means to belong to Christ together.