

# **SERMON NOTES**    Sunday 23 November

## **sunnysidechurch**

### **Building Together: God's Church**

**Bible passages: Haggai 2.1-9 and 1 Corinthians 3.1-9**

#### **Introduction**

Encouragement to:

- look forward to new thing God building
- accept his invitation to work with him and one another

#### **The discouragement of comparison**

- with what happened in the past; precious things remain but look different because different time, people and culture
- with what happening in other churches
- look for what God is doing now and join him in it

#### **We are God's Church**

- cp Haggai 2.4-5
- God is at work in Sunnyside and invite us to work with him to build his Church
- Work not strive: done with him and in his strength; he will provide the growth but we need to do our part

#### **Work begins with our spiritual life**

- We are God's temple where he lives by his Spirit
- Living stones which grow through relationship with him fed by prayer, worship, Bible reading and serving

#### **Conclusion**

"The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house," says the Lord Almighty. "And in this place I will grant peace," declares the Lord Almighty.' Haggai 2.9

#### **Some questions to discuss**

1. Is your natural tendency to want to conserve, restore or reimagine?
2. Read Haggai 2.1-9. What do you notice?
3. Why can comparison with the past, other churches or other Christians be so discouraging?
4. God invites us to work with him. What encouragements do you see in Haggai and 1 Corinthians 3.1-9?
5. Where can you see God at work in Sunnyside and in your own life? You might like to use our Vision and Mission Action Plan Priorities to help you (they are below)
6. How might God be inviting you to be part of what he is building in Sunnyside and in you?
7. Is there one thing that you are taking away from these passages? Is there something you need to do in response? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something God wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

"Be strong...and work. For I am with you", declares the Lord Almighty..."My Spirit remains among you. Do not fear" (Haggai 2.4-5)

Why not spend some time thanking God for his presence and ask him to show you how he wants you to work for growth in your life as a Christian and his Church?

Revd Rebecca Fardell

**Our Vision at Sunnyside:**

to be recognised as a Christ-centred community of living faith which seeks to make Jesus known to others.

**Mission Action Plan Priorities**

1. Worship: grow as worshipping people in church and in life. (This growth should be more, bigger and deeper)
2. Discipleship: grow as followers of Jesus in who we are and what we do
3. Mission: sharing Jesus with people through relationships

**Prayer for Church for November: focus on growth**

1. Thanksgiving: we give thanks for God's faithfulness and answered prayers
2. Growth in spirit: we pray for growth as followers of Jesus
  - Our November sermon series Building Together: lessons from Haggai
  - Our small groups (house groups, connect groups, Bible Study group and The Chosen)
  - Our prayer meetings
3. Growth in number: we pray for growth in number
  - For more families to come regularly on Sundays
  - Our relationship with those who come in the week
  - Opportunities to serve our community
4. Growth in resources: we pray for growth in teams and finances
  - For more people to want to join our teams
  - For an increase in regular giving
  - For our Fit for the Future project

