

PE CHURCH COMPASS • OCTOBER 2026

How Beautiful

*Moments that moved us from the pulpits
of Gqeberha and surrounds*



DEDICATION

For every pastor, minister, dominee and preacher in Nelson Mandela Bay who opened the Scriptures on a Sunday morning, often tired, usually unthanked, and always more faithful than anyone saw.



How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news, who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

ISAIAH 52:7 (NRSV)

*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him
that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace...
that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!*

ISAIAH 52:7 (KJV)

This booklet is our way of saying that we noticed. Week after week you carried good news up the hills of this city, and it was beautiful.

Contents



A thank-you to the city’s pastors	4
Grace that finds us	6
Jesus at the centre	8
Hope for the middle of the story	9
Caring for one another	10
Our city and our land	12
Pictures, stories and a little laughter	13
Delight in the Word	15
Prayers that carried us	16
What the Bay heard this October	17
A closing blessing and prayer	19
Where these words come from	20

THANK YOU

A thank-you to the city's pastors

Dear brothers and sisters in ministry,

Thank you. That is the whole reason for this little booklet.

PE Church Compass is a small directory that helps people in Gqeberha find a church: a newcomer to the Bay, a student at the start of the year, a family that has drifted, someone who has not been inside a church for twenty years. Before we described any church to them, we wanted to listen.

So, over four Sundays from **27 September to 18 October 2026**, we sat down with the sermons that churches had generously made public online, most of them from 4, 11 and 18 October. We listened to **47 sermons from 17 churches**, in English and Afrikaans, from across the Bay.

We came away moved and grateful. We heard the Bible opened and Christ lifted up. We heard grief comforted, sinners welcomed, children blessed, matriculants prayed for, and our city carried to God in prayer. We laughed more than once. Some lines we have not stopped thinking about.

The pages that follow gather some of those moments, so that you can enjoy them too, and perhaps be encouraged by what God is doing through your brothers and sisters across the Bay.

A word about these highlights. These are simply moments that moved us. They're our own picks, not a ranking or an assessment. Many beautiful moments are missing only because we could not fit them all in.

Beside each quotation you will find the preacher's name where the church itself has published it, and otherwise the church's name. All quotes come from publicly shared recordings; any errors in transcription are ours.

Some churches had no public recordings for these weeks. We would love to hear them too, and their absence here says nothing at all about their preaching.

Thank you for your faithfulness. It has been a joy to listen.

With gratitude and affection in Christ,

PE Church Compass

Grace that finds us

Again and again, in English and in Afrikaans, we heard the oldest and best news of all: God's love comes first, and it does not let go.

"Your name is beloved. Your name is worthy. Your name is forgiven."

Jaret Luna, Oxygen Life Church · "Hearing the Voice of the Shepherd", John 10, 11 Oct 2026

"John is saying that at the heart of all assurance is our faith in His Son. Not to self, not to works."

Mbulelo Sindelo, Cornerstone Chapel · Sermon on 1 John 3:19–24, 4 Oct 2026

"So genade vee nie die vorige hoofstuk uit nie. Genade keer dat die vorige hoofstuk die hele verhaal word."

"So grace does not wipe out the previous chapter. Grace stops the previous chapter from becoming the whole story." (our translation)

NG Kerk PE-Hoogland · Sermon on Isaiah 43:1–3, baptism service, 4 Oct 2026

"Hy sê ek het jou lief. Ek wag nie tot jy kan sê ek glo nie. Ek het jou lief."

"He says, I love you. I don't wait until you can say, I believe. I love you." (our translation)

NG Kerk PE-Hoogland · Opening of the confirmation service, 18 Oct 2026

"Ons verdien dit nie, maar God gee dit vir ons. En dit is die goeie nuus van die evangelie."

"We don't deserve it, but God gives it to us. And that is the good news of the gospel." (our translation)

Ds Gerhard Loubser, NG Kerk Lorraine · Sermon on Colossians 2:6–15, 1 Oct 2026

"Full of truth, you're a sinner, Peter, but full of grace, I still love you, Peter."

Rev. Murray Smith, Summerstrand United Church · Sermon on John 21, 18 Oct 2026

“Maybe the message for you today is God is saying, “I love you and I forgive you. I roll away all your sin, all your transgressions. I roll away all your guilt, shame, disappointment, failure.”

Rev. Raymond Butler, St Marks Congregational Church · Sermon on Joshua 4, 18 Oct 2026

“This is about grace. This is the gospel. Those who were far off are brought near.”

Canon Barry Sendall, St John’s Anglican Church, Walmer · Sermon on Matthew 22:1–14, 11 Oct 2026

“Daniel never did anything to warrant that love or that favor. We get it the other way around.”

Deon Lombard, Victoria Park Baptist Church · Sermon on Daniel 10:10–21, 18 Oct 2026

“I want you to know there’s enough grace from the kingdom of God to redeem you and rescue you.”

Ps George Georgiou, Father’s House · “What’s the Plan?” Part 1, 4 Oct 2026

Jesus at the centre

Different traditions, different passages, the same Saviour lifted up.

“You want to know what God looks like, you look at Jesus.”

Walmer Methodist Church · Sermon on Hebrews 1:1–4, 11 Oct 2026

“And so 1,000 years later, King Jesus will walk this exact path.”

Greg Heasley, Covenant Grace Church · Sermon on 2 Samuel 15, 11 Oct 2026

“The God whose glory Moses longed to see is Jesus come among us.”

Canon Rob Penrith, St John's Anglican Church, Walmer · Sermon on Exodus 33 and Matthew 22:15–22, 18 Oct 2026

“The goal of discipleship is not merely that people know about Jesus, but that Christ is formed in them.”

Ray Dawson, Oxygen Life Church · “Reflecting Christ”, Galatians 4:19, 11 Oct 2026

“When you don't know where to go, go back to Jesus. When you're not sure, go back to Jesus. When you feel like you're falling apart, hold on to Jesus.”

Trevor Anderson, Lighthouse Family Church · Sermon on Daniel 6, 11 Oct 2026

“That's what the book of Revelation is all about. The revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Peter Weber, Cornerstone Chapel · Sermon on Revelation 6:17–7:8, 11 Oct 2026

Hope for the middle of the story

Words for people who are still waiting, still praying, still walking.

“many of us are still in the middle of our stories. And while we might not see what God is accomplishing, that does not mean he is absent and he isn’t faithful. He’s still present and faithful.”

Joe Prince (guest), Covenant Grace Church · Sermon on Genesis 45–46, 18 Oct 2026

“remember when we didn’t see a way, God made a way. When we saw the obstacle, God saw the miracle.”

Rev. Raymond Butler, St Marks Congregational Church · Sermon on Joshua 3, 11 Oct 2026

“So Jesus’s look is one of love and hope wrapped in God’s patience.”

Rev. Murray Smith, Summerstrand United Church · Sermon on Luke 22, 11 Oct 2026

“have confidence that in due season, the God who has been faithful so long will not drop you and he will be faithful all the way.”

Ps George Georgiou, Father’s House · “What’s the Plan?” Part 3, 18 Oct 2026

On telling an unsaved friend that you have prayed and are trusting God:

“...you’ve said, look over there. That’s my hope over there. He’s lifted up to the right hand of the Father. His name is Jesus.”

Ps Mark Scholtz, Harvest Christian Church · Sermon on 1 Corinthians 3 and John 3, 11 Oct 2026

“God has never forsaken his people. God has never forgotten his people.”

CRC Port Elizabeth · From the front during worship, 18 Oct 2026

Caring for one another

Pictures of a church that carries its people, and reaches beyond its walls.

“The priesthood of believers is the place where it’s first prize where members are caring for members and members are praying for members and the body is working when every part does its role.”

Greg Heasley, Covenant Grace Church · Sermon on 2 Samuel 15, 11 Oct 2026

“Just one another’s mere presence here gives us hope and encourages our faith.”

Walmer Methodist Church · Prayer before the sermon on Hebrews 3–4, 18 Oct 2026

“The solid friendships between men, the solid friendships between women who care and love, and pray, and come alongside, and help one another become holy in Christ....Being Christ to the stranger.”

Rev. Murray Smith, Summerstrand United Church · Sermon on John 13, 4 Oct 2026

“In the end, holiness is love lived out. And that makes holiness a beautiful godly attribute.”

Ian Davidson, Victoria Park Baptist Church · Sermon on 1 Thessalonians 3:11–13, 11 Oct 2026

“as ons liefde het, liefhet, vergewe, barmhartig is, omgee, dan gaan dit vir ander mense, vir die wêreld se mense makliker wees om te glo dat Jesus ook so is.”

“if we have love, love, forgive, are merciful, care, then it will be easier for other people, for the people of the world, to believe that Jesus is like that too.” (our translation)

DS Armand Crous, NG Kerk Lorraine · Sermon on 1 Thessalonians 1, 18 Oct 2026

“So we can with humility and compassion be agents of grace and reconciliation to those who come, broken people who come to us.”

GAP Church · Sermon on 1 Corinthians 6:9–20, 18 Oct 2026

Our city and our land

Moments when the Bay itself, and South Africa, were held up before God with love.

“Other people saw buildings and other people saw crowds, but Jesus wept over the city.”

Pastor Keegan Fredericks, CRC Port Elizabeth · Sunday sermon, 18 Oct 2026

“I was actually just thanking the Lord for our city the other day. There are many, many godly people in it.”

Shaun Brauteseth, Oxygen Life Church · “God’s Ways”, evening message, 11 Oct 2026

“there’s an open heaven over our city. And God has given us a space to declare gospel, declare hope, changing of lives.”

Dave Pedersen, Fountain Vineyard Christian Fellowship · Sermon on John 17 and Psalm 133, 11 Oct 2026

“I pray that you would put something in our hearts, Lord, a passion in our hearts to be able to reach out to the people around us and help build South Africa up again.”

Cameron McIntosh, Fountain Vineyard Christian Fellowship · Prayer for South Africa before the message, 18 Oct 2026

“Die Here het vir jou vir ’n tyd soos hierdie vrye toegang gegee tot sy genadetroon.”

“For a time such as this, the Lord has given you free access to his throne of grace.” (our translation)

Ds Gerhard Loubser, NG Kerk Lorraine · Sermon on Esther 4:12–16, 11 Oct 2026

Pictures, stories and a little laughter

The illustrations that stayed with us, and a few that made us laugh out loud.

Telling how his family rescued tiny ladybirds washed up by the waves and carried them home to the garden:

“And as I was doing that, I was just thinking, it’s such a picture of the gospel”

Robbie Roelofse, Oxygen Life Church · “Caution: Narrow Road Ahead”, Matthew 7, 11 Oct 2026

On Joseph’s reunion with his father Jacob (Genesis 46:29):

“But sometimes tears say more than words ever could.”

Joe Prince (guest), Covenant Grace Church · Sermon on Genesis 45–46, 18 Oct 2026

Ending the story of a mother locked out of her car, whose prayer for help was answered by a big man on a motorbike, just out of prison for car theft:

“Thank you, God, that you sent me a professional.”

Rev. Raymond Butler, St Marks Congregational Church · Sermon on Joshua 3, 11 Oct 2026

After sharing his faith with a fellow passenger on a long-haul flight, and then sleeping in peace:

“The real miracles were that I actually fell asleep on economy class. That was the real miracle.”

Ps Mark Scholtz, Harvest Christian Church · Sermon on 1 Corinthians 3 and John 3, 11 Oct 2026

Picturing a goldsmith refining gold for a ring:

“He sits there and he watches it and he watches it and he watches it until the point that it is refined to where he wants it to be.”

Worship leader, GAP Church · Before the sermon on 1 Corinthians 3, 11 Oct 2026

Picturing what it means that our debt of sin has been paid in full:

“Die van julle wat al ’n huis afbetaal het of ’n motor afbetaal het, as hy daai laaste paaient betaal het, is daar ’n las wat van jou skouers afval.”

“Those of you who have paid off a house or a car: when that last payment is made, there’s a weight that falls off your shoulders.” (our translation)

Ds Gerhard Loubser, NG Kerk Lorraine · Sermon on Colossians 2:6–15, 1 Oct 2026

On becoming a father:

“you don’t realize that you can love something so small so much so quickly. And I look at that and going, “The love that I have for my son is nothing compared to the love that Jesus has for us his children.””

Jordan Theron, Lighthouse Family Church · Sermon on Mark 5:21–43, 11 Oct 2026

“He allowed there to be diversity in his church because he created us with different flavors. We’re much more like a box of Smarties than a box of whatever is monotonous.”

Trinity Baptist Church · Teaching in the Sunday service, 11 Oct 2026

Delight in the Word

Small moments of wonder at what the text itself says.

“Interestingly, the first time the word love is used in the Bible is of a father and a son heading towards the altar.”

Trevor Anderson, Lighthouse Family Church · Sermon on Daniel 6 (with Genesis 22), 11 Oct 2026

“The joy of the Lord is a stronghold....Living for God’s joy alone becomes a stronghold for us.”

Walmer Methodist Church · Sermon on Nehemiah 8, 4 Oct 2026

“Daar staan nie dat ... ’n groot teerpad oor die berge bou vir die bokke om op te loop nie.”

“It doesn’t say that ... a big tarred road is built over the mountains for the buck to walk on.” (our translation)

NG Kerk PE-Hoogland · Sermon on Psalm 121, matric service, 11 Oct 2026

“the goal is we should all be the guys who come back and say thank you to Jesus, the whole rest of our lives.”

Ps George Georgiou, Father’s House · “What’s the Plan?” Part 2, on Luke 17 (the ten lepers), 11 Oct 2026

Prayers that carried us

Some of the most beautiful words we heard were not preached at all, but prayed.

“You were left naked on a cross so that we could be brought home. So that we could be welcomed, so that we could be adopted. Jesus, we thank you that you were cast out and left alone so that we could be brought in and given a family.”

Greg Heasley, Covenant Grace Church · Closing prayer after a sermon on 2 Samuel 15, 11 Oct 2026

“So mag die Vader jou vashou, die seun saam met jou gaan en die gees jou herinner aan wie jy is vandag. môre en elke dag wat kom.”

“So may the Father hold you fast, the Son go with you, and the Spirit remind you who you are, today, tomorrow and every day to come.” (our translation)

NG Kerk PE-Hoogland · Blessing at the close of a baptism service, 4 Oct 2026

“We pray, Lord, for our family, our families who don’t know you, those family members who we’ve perhaps been having conversations with for years and years.”

Wesley Henrico, Victoria Park Baptist Church · Closing prayer after a sermon on Matthew 10:34–41, 4 Oct 2026

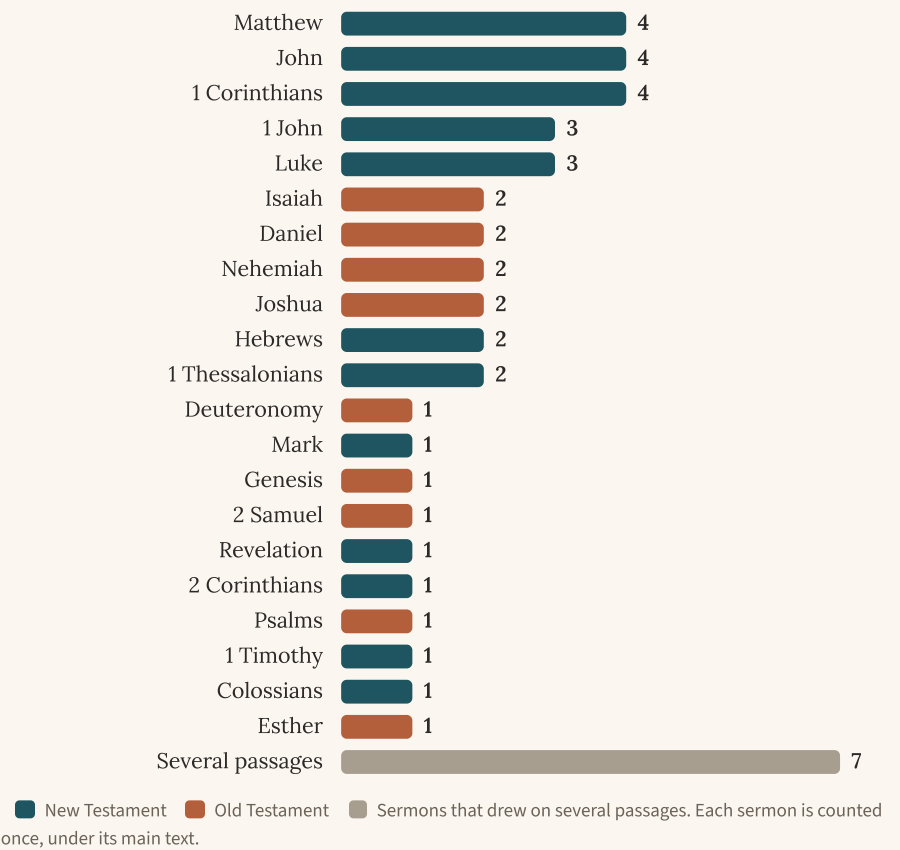
“There are people in our congregation who are struggling and broken who come from various backgrounds and come to your table to receive grace and love and peace.”

GAP Church · Prayer at the Lord’s Table, 11 Oct 2026

What the Bay heard this October



BOOKS OF THE BIBLE PREACHED, PER SERMON



From Genesis to Revelation: across one month, the Bay heard from 21 different books of the Bible. The Gospels led the way (12 sermons), and the Old Testament rang out too, from Joseph’s reunion with his father to Esther’s courage and a pilgrim’s Psalm.

OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT



■ New Testament (27) ■ Old Testament (13) ■ Several passages (7)

LANGUAGES HEARD



■ English (41) ■ Afrikaans (6)

CHURCHES

I7 Gqeberha churches heard

Hebrews, Joshua, Daniel and 1 Corinthians were each opened more than once this month, and some Sundays were special days: a baptism, a confirmation, a matric service. Every one of those Sundays was somebody's faithful week of preparation. Thank you.

BLESSING

A closing blessing and prayer

*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who
announces peace, who brings good news...*

ISAIAH 52:7 (NRSV)

Lord Jesus, Chief Shepherd of your church,
thank you for the pastors of this city.
Thank you for every Bible opened,
every hurting person comforted,
every sinner welcomed home.

Give them rest when they are tired,
courage when they are afraid,
and joy even when no one says thank you.
Let them hear your voice saying over them
what they so often say to others:
you are mine, and you are loved.

Bless the Bay through them,
and bless them through the Bay.
For your glory. Amen.

*The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon
you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and
give you peace.*

NUMBERS 6:24-26 (NRSV)

Where these words come from

Every highlight comes from a recording that a church made public, on YouTube, SoundCloud or its own website. Together they cover 47 sermons from 17 Gqeberha churches, from 27 September and 4, 11 and 18 October 2026.

We worked from automatic transcripts of those recordings, so a word here or there may differ slightly from what was actually said. Each quotation was checked against the transcript, and some were checked again against the audio. An ellipsis (...) marks words left out. The short lead-ins in italics are our own summaries. The Afrikaans translations are ours.

Preachers are named only where their church has published their name with the recording (in a video title or description, a sermon listing or the church's website); otherwise we give the church's name alone. No member of any congregation is named in these pages, and every quotation comes from someone leading from the front. All quotes come from publicly shared recordings; any errors in transcription are ours.

These are our own personal highlights, gathered with joy. They are not a ranking, a review or an assessment of anyone.

If you recognise your own words here, we hope they bless you. If a name or detail needs correcting, or you would prefer a quote left out, simply let us know through PE Church Compass. Thank you for all you do.