

## Our Values

### Grace renewal

We get that there is an ever-present temptation, powerful in the Inner West, to preserve our pride by thinking that strong willpower alone is the way that we change and grow; but, that results in a Christianity for the strong and excludes the weak – when actually, we're all weak.

*And so ...*

We value grace renewal – the fact that being Christian is grace from first to last. The grace which saves us is the grace that changes us to be more and more like Jesus, because it's only grace that melts our hearts and orders our loves, and the loves of our hearts drive everything we are and do.

### Spiritual rhythms

We get that life in the Inner West is pressured and pressurising, pulling and pushing us in different ways; the result is that over time, this can make discipleship to Jesus compressed and incomplete.

*And so ...*

We value intentional rhythms of grace – daily, weekly, monthly, spontaneously – that knead the gospel into our hearts and lives: Bible reflection and prayer, corporate worship, witness, service, fellowship.

### Gospel fluency

We get that it's much easier to live a compartmentalised life, rather than an integrated one, with Christianity confined to some corners; but the fact is that the gospel changes everything.

*And so ...*

We value being really clear and really good at knowing how to speak the gospel into every situation, decision, temptation and opportunity that we face, so that every crevice of our lives is being conformed to Christ.

### Full devotion

We get that, despite our fervent wishes, life is rarely under control, that things can go tragically wrong, and that suffering is only a heartbeat away; and the temptation when things are hard is to turn inward to ourselves and away from God; but the fact is that only God is strong enough and trustworthy enough to be the anchor for our soul.

*And so ...*

We value being full in our devotion to the Father; we hold nothing back, trusting that we never miss out by going all-in with Jesus and that the more you're in Jesus, the more you are you.

### Cultural literacy and engagement

We get that a post-Christian culture makes it tempting to hide away in holy huddles and shrilly shout at the world around; but the truth is that the gospel is too good not to share, and too important not to be understood.

*And so ...*

We value deeply understanding the joys and sadnesses, desires and fears of the people around us so we can speak the gospel to their hearts. And we value investing our time and energy in doing what is good and undoing what is bad – by enacting justice and enriching culture – so we can adorn the gospel to the people around us.

### A community of grace

We get that it is all too easy to drift into pseudo community (superficial friendliness and acceptance, only loosely holding onto Jesus' call to holiness) or, into moralistic community (superficial holiness, only loosely holding onto our mutual need of Jesus' grace and forgiveness). Yet the truth is, in this lonely world, more and more people are desperate for deep, authentic connection.

*And so ...*

We value a grace-based community, where we lift one another up in our striving to grow like Christ, both as the church gathered on Sunday in worship and as the church scattered during the week in the world, but never putting another down because we all stand in the grace of Jesus.

