God's love never ceases
Text: Psalm 89

Introduction
Psalm 89 is a community lament. In the middle of great national disaster the Psalmist appeals to God's steadfast love and covenant faithfulness to carry them through and to restore them.

The Psalm is a Maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite.
- A Maskil is a Psalm that teaches us something
- Ethan was a Levite, very wise, one of the music leaders at the Temple
- It is thought that he wrote this Psalm during the time when Rehoboam, the grandson of David, was King over Israel
- 2 generations after David there was much fighting amongst the Israelites
- Israel was made up of 12 tribes. 10 of the tribes revolted against the reign of King Rehoboam and formed the Northern Kingdom of Israel under the reign of Jeroboam
- It is during this difficult time that it is believed that Ethan wrote Psalm 89

For the sake of context let's look at 2 Samuel 7:8-17.
- We find God speaking to King David through the Prophet Nathan
- God calls the people of Israel “my people”
- God promises to make David's name great
- God promises to settle His people in their own place so that they may not be disturbed by enemies
- Ie. God promises rest for His people
- God promises that when David dies He will raise up David's offspring and establish his kingdom
- God promises to establish the throne of David's son's kingdom forever
- God will be his father and he shall be God's son
- God says He will discipline David's offspring but His steadfast love will not depart from him
- God promises that David's house and kingdom shall be made sure forever
- David's throne shall be established forever

With that in mind we approach Psalm 89.

1. The steadfast love of the Lord – v.1-4
God's love is seen in His covenant faithfulness toward His people.
- The Psalmist begins: v.1 “I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.”
- The two go hand in hand: God is loving because He is faithful; and God is faithful because He is loving
  - Lam. 3:22-23 “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”
- v.3-4 refer to the events of 2 Sam. 7:8-16: God's promise to David to establish his offspring forever
  - This promise to David is a covenant and an oath that God made that will last forever
    - Psalm 89:3-4 “You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: ‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.’”

What has been your experience of the Lord?
God's love is tightly wrapped in His faithfulness.

- He has promised that our sins will be forgiven in Christ
- He has promised that His presence will be with us on earth
- He has promised that we will be resurrected to life eternal with Him forever

2. The greatness of the Lord – v.5-18

In this next section the Psalmist brings praise to God.

- v.5-7 show that the heavens praise the wonders of God; these praises ring out before the holy ones (angels); and that there is no one in the skies who can compare to the Lord; and that God is far above all of creation.
- v.8-10 show that God's faithfulness is all around Him; He has power over nature, bringing order to chaos
- v.11-12 show that the heavens and the earth are the Lord's; as Creator He is the owner and ruler over all things; Tabor and Hermon are mountains that show that creation joyously praises God's name
- v.13-14 show that God is incredibly powerful; that He is righteous, just, steadfast in love, and faithful
- v.15-18 turn to reflect on how blessed people are to know the Lord, who walk with Him and according to His ways; who exult Him are in return exalted; who find their refuge in Him

God is all-powerful. We serve the Risen Savior!

All of creation bows before Him.

One day every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord.

How blessed we are to know the Lord, to walk with Him, to live according to His ways, and to find our refuge in Him.

3. The covenant faithfulness of the Lord – v.19-37

This next section of the Psalm draws on the story of David's anointing in 1 Sam. 16:1-13 and God's oath to David in 2 Sam. 7:4-17.

- v.19 refers to Samuel or the Prophet Nathan as the “godly one.”
- God led Samuel to identify David as the King of Israel.
- God would also speak to David through the Prophet Nathan
- God picked David to be the King of Israel and for his descendants to rule on his throne forever
- David was anointed as King with the promise that God would strengthen him
- God promised to protect David and to preserve his lineage for the throne of the kingdom
- David would serve the Lord by serving God's people
- God promised that His love and faithfulness would be with David
- God also said that He would discipline David's descendants if they disobeyed God's laws, but that God would not violate the covenant He made with David
- Because God is holy He will not lie; He would remain faithful to His promise
- His promise to David was that David's offspring and throne would last forever

Luke 3:23-38 gives us the genealogy of Jesus. Let's look at it together: “Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Nagai, the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Ner, the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosumm, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, the son of Joshua, the
son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Matthath, the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Sala, the son of Nahshon, the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber; the son of Shelah, the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan, the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

So, we find that Jesus was of the line of David

It is in Jesus that the throne of David will last forever!

God is true. We can trust Him.

4. The discipline of the Lord – v.38-45
So far the Psalm has painted an amazing picture about the greatness of God and His faithfulness to His Word. But the Psalmist now comes back to the situation the Israelites found themselves in.

- They feel as if God had cast them off and rejected them
- It feels as if God's hand was heavy upon them
- They felt as if God had renounced the covenant He had made and that the throne of David lay in the dust
- Israel had become a mockery and they were being mocked
- Israel was in a place of defeat
- And David's throne was covered in shame

You and I have been in similar situations before.

- We trust in God for our salvation and then things seem to go wrong
- It is in times like those that we must remember that Jesus took the punishment for our sins, but God, like a loving father, disciplines us and brings us to that place of continual trust in Him.

5. The restoring work of the Lord – v.46-52
The Psalm now turns to a plea for God's mercy and restoration.

- The Psalmist asks whether God will hide Himself forever
- He asks how long God's wrath will burn against His people
- It is a desperate situation knowing that every human being faces death; and no one should face death with the looming wrath of God
- The Psalmist longs to know the steadfast love of the Lord
- The Psalmist longs to see God's faithfulness
- The Psalmist was being mocked by God's enemies and he longs to see God act and restore
- The Psalmist knows in his heart that God is good and exclaims: "Blessed be the Lord forever! Amen and amen."

The ESV Study Bible commentary says: “There is great comfort in the promise of an enduring Davidic house, and thus the present low estate of God’s people is not the end of their story; yet the faithful pray that even now God may see fit to relieve the hardship. Each generation of the faithful knows that its time is short and yearns to see some foretaste of God’s ultimate vindication of his promises to his people. It feels wrong for God’s people, whose king is eventually to rule all the kings of the earth, to be subject to the insults of all the many nations, so that the Gentiles mock the footsteps of God’s anointed. The appeal is to God’s steadfast love and faithfulness expressed in his oath to David, and not to any claims...
When we are facing hardship in our lives, we don't hold our fist up to the Lord and say: “WHY ME?!”
No, we appeal to God's steadfast love and faithfulness to restore us and to empower us for this life.

**Conclusion**
Psalm 89 teaches us that God is steadfast in love and faithfulness.
God promised that a King from David's line would sit on the throne forever.
Jesus is the fulfilment of that prophecy.
We have learnt again this morning that:
- God is steadfast in His love
- God is great
- God is faithful to His promises
- God disciplines those He loves
- God restores

We can confidently continue to trust God with our lives.
This Christmas season we must celebrate the coming of Jesus our King. He showed in human form the steadfast love and faithfulness of the Lord.