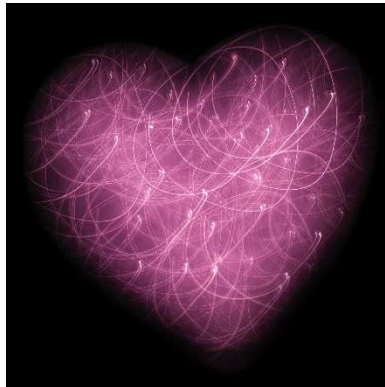




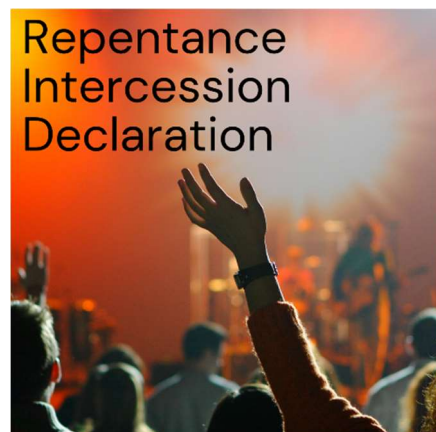
Discussion questions for personal or growth group use:

Readings: Matthew 22:34-40 and 28: 16-20

Question 1: James used the image of our hearts being united with God's heart to help us think about what it means to follow Jesus, and what it means when we authentically display the characteristics of Church. What do you think of that image? How does it speak to you about how we can best be Church as Christ calls us to be?



Question 2: James shared three words he felt God was saying to St Andrew's at the moment that we should express in our call to worship, fasting and prayer – these were repentance, intercession and declaration. How do you feel these are expressed in your own experience of prayer and worship? Do you think you need to consider one or more of these in your own relationship with God?



Questions 3: James used two images of Church from the Bible, Jesus being at the head of the Church and the Church being the bride of Christ. How might these images help you to understand what the Church is and how we need to behave?



What other images or models of Church might help us to understand the call of Christ on us? EG: Army, family, lifeboat

Question 4: The two readings from Matthew are often known as the 'greatest commandment' and the 'great commission'. What do they say to us about our purpose as disciples and as a Church? How do we express these and how might we express these elements better?

Question 5: What does this mean you might do differently from here on?

Supplementary Question: Looking at the description of the Church in Acts 2:42-47, what elements of community are the early disciples displaying? How do we express these in our community? How might we see some of these more?