

us. Sharing life's highs and lows together. Relationships are to be lived, not commented on, or talked about, but they are first and foremost to be lived. And Jesus seeks to live with you based on his amazing grace, based on the assurance of his love for you.

Jesus is not a program, or a new study series, or a commodity that will make my life better. Jesus is a living breathing person who wants to build a loving relationship with you. He's given his life, that to live together in a relationship of love, grace and mercy.

So let's stop talking about it and live it. Let's spend some time now, chatting with Jesus, sharing what's on our heart and soul. (Quietly share with Jesus and take the time

to listen, to sense his reply.)

Jesus thank you for not giving me a course about yourself, which I have to memorise and pass. Thank you for coming in person to build a personal relationship with me. Save me from being a lot of hot-air, endlessly talking about you, then leaving you on the bench when I go out to play in life. Forgive me for relegating you to being some teacher or coach, or the best in the self-help section. Thank you that you rose from the grave to share your life with us, in a relationship where the curse of sin is dealt with. I thank and praise you for freeing me from that curse. Help me always hear you speaking. Help me build my life with you, living intimately with you. Thank you for

amazingly wanting to live intimately with me. As I share this life with you, help me to introduce you to my friends and family, so that they also know you personally. That you show yourself to be more than a two thousand year old story which has nothing to do with today. Please break through that they too can join with Mary and declare; 'I have seen the Lord!' Break through and be real to them, freeing them from the devils lies, the snares of sin and the fear of death. Amen.



Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am

Pastor: Tim 0427326553

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Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

12 April 2009 EASTER SUNDAY



What did Mary Magdalene say to the disciple? "I have seen the Lord!" (John 20:18) Peter in acts said; "We are witnesses..." (Acts 10:39) Neither of them are talking about something second-hand, they were there.

I've often had people come up to me after some special event, and say; 'You should have been there'. There's something special about being there when something happens that is lost when you get it second-hand.

Mary didn't read a paper about Jesus or hear some wonderful speaker; she heard, she saw, she was there with Jesus. 'I have seen the Lord!'

Peter walked, and talked with Jesus. He walked with Jesus on

the sea. He helped feed the 5000 with five loaves and two fish. Peter was there when Jesus healed the blind, touched the lepers freeing them. Peter helped unwrap Lazarus as he came from the grave. Jesus washed Peter's feet. He felt the water and Jesus touch. He experienced firsthand Jesus' amazing grace as he was forgiven for having denied Jesus those three times. Peter didn't pass on second-hand information, but shared about his life with Jesus. He had lived it.

Mary had lived it. Jesus had called her by name; Mary. And her world was never the same. 'I have seen the Lord!' In person, face to face, she experienced life with Jesus.

That's what Jesus wants, that we today experience life with him. Jesus didn't rise from the dead so that we could have some sort of second-hand information about him.

Mary doesn't come and say; 'You should have been there', but 'I saw the Lord and this is what he told me'.

When Peter was sharing about his life with Jesus all of a sudden; "...the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message..." (Acts 10:44) Peter hadn't come to give a good lecture about Jesus, telling them you should have been there. No Peter told about his life with Jesus, and then Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, in person. And their life was never the same again. They didn't

tell people a second-hand story about Jesus, but they became witnesses of how Jesus had changed their lives. How they had gone from being outside of a relationship with God, to living that relationship in person through the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus had sent.

The Easter message isn't meant to be a second-hand retelling of a two thousand year old story. I don't want to waste your time giving you a lecture about Jesus. Mary told the disciples so that they could go and meet Jesus. Peter shared about his life with Jesus, and those who heard went from an interesting lecture to an encounter with the living God, in the person of the Holy Spirit. And Jesus is the one who sends the Holy Spirit, that we might live with him, knowing Jesus' will, being loved by Jesus, sharing life with Jesus, through the

Holy Spirit. Not talking about it, but living it. Jesus isn't into talking about life; he's come that we might be living with him. Jesus doesn't want us sitting through another lecture about him, or going to another conference about him, Jesus is alive. He's far more

JESUS is ALIVE

interested in you talking with him rather than about him. At this point I looked outside my window and saw what used to be lawn. I could talk to my lawn about the benefits of rain. I could describe how it looks in beautiful prose. How it can fall gently softening the ground and at times come washing away the ground. But my lawn doesn't need talk about

the rain, about it's beauty and the benefits it brings. What does my lawn need? RAIN!

Thank God Jesus didn't send out talkers, but witnesses. Thank God Jesus didn't send out people to tell us; 'You should have been there'. Two thousand years after the event is just a bit late.

Thank God that Jesus is alive. Fit and healthy today, ready to enter into our lives and share living his life with us today.

Today I am reminded of the 'Good News' that there is a huge difference between talk and action. Jesus didn't simply talk and talk and talk about loving me, he was born, he revealed God in a personal way, he died that the penalty of my sin might be paid for and he has risen again that I might share life with him today, tomorrow and forever.

'Good News' Mary could say; 'I have seen the Lord!' Good Friday, Jesus crucifixion wasn't the end, but the beginning of an intimate relationship with God through Jesus. A relationship based on his grace, lived in his love as his dear children, because our sins are forgiven. A relationship that is to be lived, for Jesus is alive. Ready, willing and able to share his life with us. That's his great passion, to share a personal relationship with you as part of his family, enjoying each other's company, living life together.

One of my favourite sporting personalities is Mike Doohan. I've read about him, I've watched him race, but that would be nothing compared to actually talking with him, but what would be brilliant is if he showed me how to ride better, and then

together we'd go off for a fang through the hills. That's what Jesus wants to do, move us from reading about him, to talking with him, to sharing life together with him. The 'Good News' of Easter isn't, you should have been there, but that Jesus is alive, so you

LIVE with HIM

can today experience life with him. Mary and Peter didn't talk about Jesus, they talked with him, and then introduced that same person to their friends. Then they too could talk with Jesus, sharing life together, because Jesus is alive. Let's never forget that Jesus hasn't called us to talk about him, but to live with him. That's an all of life experience. Jesus isn't some teacher

who can help you get the best out of life, he's come to be involved, so you can be part of his life. That'll blow any good principle based life out of the water. I'm walking with Jesus, enjoying life with him, experiencing living with him.

How do you grow any relationship? Communication – that's why we have the bible and prayer. So we can hear Jesus clearly and share our heart and soul with him, just as he shares his heart and soul with us.

How do you grow any relationship? Shared life experiences. I've grown close to my wife and kids, not through lectures on life, but because we've experienced life together, the good, the bad and the boring! Jesus is alive and seeks shared life experiences with us. So we know first-hand his love for