

together, based on his love for you.

Let us pray.  
Jesus thanks for loving us. I want to live set apart for you. Grow me closer to you, and help me to introduce you to other people that together we can share your life with you, always.  
Amen.

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## Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am  
Pastor: Tim 0427326553  
Edmund 0429041957



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

23 May 2009

## GOD'S GRACIOUS GRIP.

3:16



“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

Today we are reminded of one simple but essential truth. All roads don't lead to Rome. All ways don't put me right with God. In fact we believe there is only one way. That was spelt out in our second reading:

“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” (1 John 5:12)

It's very simple, that's why Jesus' prayer in our Gospel reading is one for

unity, unity through faith in him. Jesus prays that we believe that the Father sent Jesus, and we're called to live a life lived set apart for Jesus. There just simply isn't any other way to live at peace with God. There simply isn't any other way to be forgiven and live life with God as his precious child, whom he is well pleased with.

That's also what John 3:16 clearly reminds me of. It is when I place my faith in Jesus that I have eternal life, and there is only one Jesus. We don't have multiple Jesus'. We don't have a Buddha Jesus, or a Hindu Jesus, or a Good Bloke Jesus.

There is only one Jesus, and that's the person who has revealed himself to us through his birth, life here on earth, death and resurrection. That's the only way that we are saved. That's the only person who has the power and authority to declare you forgiven, to declare you a child of the Father through the water's of Baptism.

If someone is nice will they be saved? If I'm nice can I make God love me? Of course not, because if my relationship is dependent on my niceness, on my not making mistakes, on me not having foot-in-mouth disease, I'm sunk. It's not love,

<p>it's manipulation, and that just plainly isn't Jesus. He hasn't come to manipulate you, to offer you a deal you can't refuse.</p>	<p>wondered about whether we should advertise church services at all, because I don't have a service to offer.</p>	<p>himself. Jesus' community isn't for sale, just as Jesus' love isn't for sale. Love by it's nature must always be a free gift. Jesus freely;</p>	<p><i>means to set apart. Jesus set himself apart to do the Father's will in the way he loved us with his life</i> – that they too</p>	<p>might share life with him, knowing his love for them. Not feeling manipulated, or threatened to do the right thing or else.</p>	<p>Jesus. No matter how nice I think I am, no matter how successful I am, no matter how just I am, if I don't know Jesus, if I haven't been</p>
<p>That's why I think as Jesus' community we need to be very careful in the way we present ourselves. I fear that at times I act as if I've got a wonderful product that will make people's lives fantastic. If you</p>	<p>What was the first thought you had when I said we don't have a service to offer?</p>	<p>“made <i>himself</i> who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Cor. 5:21)</p>	<p>may be truly sanctified.” (John 17:19) That we to might be set apart to share life with Jesus. To live in a loving, intimate relationship with God through Jesus. And he is the only way.</p>	<p>I don't have a service to sell; all I have is Jesus to introduce.</p>	<p>if I haven't been introduced to him I can't accept his offer to share his life with him.</p>
<p>only had this product your life would be much, much better. Do we ever use advertising talk to sell the church, trying to entice people to take up this fantastic offer, to buy our product?</p>	<p>All I have is Jesus</p>	<p>And Jesus has sent us out into the world, just like the Father sent him out; “As you (<i>Father</i>) sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:18)</p>	<p>Jesus doesn't offer a product but a relationship. A relationship which is solely based on his choice to love us, to win forgiveness for us that we might build a living vibrant relationship with God through him.</p>	<p>All I have is Jesus</p>	<p>Thank God we do know Jesus. Thank God we are able to introduce people to Jesus and not try and sell some product. Thank God he chose to give himself out of love, that he was sacrificed to pay for the forgiveness of sins, so we can stop sacrificing each other to meet our needs.</p>
<p>I don't have a product for sale. I don't have the best club, filled with the nicest people, where nothing unpleasant will happen to you. In the last years I've</p>	<p>Jesus is not a service to offer. Jesus is a living, breathing person, who has made the choice to love you, to sacrifice himself that you might know without doubt that he loves you.</p>	<p>To Jesus you are not a product to consume. To Jesus you're not something he needs to have to feel good about life, to prove</p>	<p>And wonderfully that is what Jesus has empowered us to do, to introduce our friends and family to Jesus that they too</p>	<p>Jesus offers a Relationship</p>	<p>I don't have the latest and greatest product to meet all your needs, all I have is Jesus who wants you to get to know him, and to say yes to his invitation to share life</p>