

stretch us beyond our wildest dreams as we learn to love from the heart. From a heart that beats with Jesus' very pulse.

To be Jesus' disciple is to be invigorated for life. Life lived in a loving community that seeks to give expression to that love to each other and all who they come into contact with. The relationship we have with Jesus invigorates us to love as we are loved. That's discipleship, and it isn't some grind but easy, it isn't aimed at getting you down but lifting you up, it's light.

This is what Jesus has sent us out to invite people to be a part of. To hear that

wonderful words of Jesus; 'Come to me'. And to then join with those people in that exciting adventure of discipleship – becoming more and more like Jesus. Discovering how to love people beyond our wildest dreams, and to be part of a community that loves each other just like Jesus.

Let us pray.
Jesus thank you for inviting me to come to you. Thank you for the love you have for each of us and that your passion is to share yourself with us. Help me to live with you, watching and following the way you live, loving people to extreme. Grow me daily as your disciple to love

that way, as an individual and also as part of your family, the church. Stretch me and grow me to love extravagantly like you, so that your reputation is held in high respect by all the people I encounter. 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

6 July 2008

Cultivating Mission 3.

Matthew 11:28-30



Today I'd like to start with a quiz. Jesus said I have come that you might have: a: A million dollars. b: Never ending existence. c: Life to the full. d: an easy life. In John 10:10 Jesus said: "I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full."

In the bible we read; Perfect love: a: Always comes with hugs and kisses. b: Drives out fear. c: Is best expressed in romance. d: Always comes with chocolates and roses. In the bible we read that; "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear." (1 John 4:18)

The most important thing we do as church is: a: Worship Sundays. b: Keep the Ten Commandments. c: Love one another as we are loved by God. d: Invite other people to come and know Jesus.

What lies at the heart of the church, the people of God who are gathered in Jesus' name? What lies at the heart of this community of faith, who are brothers and sisters, united in Jesus?

Today's Gospel reading reminds me that what lies at the heart of the church is a simple invitation: Jesus says; "Come to me". At the heart of the Gospel is an

invitation, a personal invitation given by Jesus. In other words we have a relationship.

What did Adam and Eve lose when they ate the forbidden fruit? They lost a relationship of love and trust with God. Instead of rejoicing in his presence they hid in fear. Fear because they knew they had broken the trust that existed between them and God. The first relationship break down.

How can this relationship be restored? How can God and humanity be reconciled? That's the heart beat of the bible. It's a love story. God's love for

humanity. A love that was rejected. But that keeps on reaching out to restore this broken relationship. The heartbeat of the church is a relationship created by God, through Jesus. And relationships are for living.

condemnation. In Jesus we have nothing to fear. Step outside of Jesus, then be afraid, very afraid. Outside of Jesus there will always be nagging doubt – have I done enough, do they really love me or just what I have to

rest comes when we are embraced by Jesus, coming into a living relationship with him. That’s the simply message we are called to tell other people. That’s the relationship we are invited to share.

Today we hear that wonderful invitation of Jesus: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matt. 11:28)

Jesus says: ‘Come to me’
offer, what if I get it wrong will I be rejected. Outside of a loving relationship with Jesus we will be weary and burdened. Trying to perform and find acceptance is wearisome. Being under law is burdensome. Thank God we can find rest in Jesus.

The Pharisees invited people to become their disciples, that’s the image of the yoke in the Gospel reading for today. But all they had to offer was that people join them under the overbearing load of the law. For the law doesn’t have to power to change the heart, to change a person from inside-out. No wonder we feel weary and burdened by the law, because it is always an external force squeezing us into a mould that doesn’t fit us.

Notice it’s Jesus who gives us rest. We don’t find rest in a formula, or a place, or performance, but in this personal relationship of love which Jesus creates. In Jesus we are embraced in God’s love – the love which drives out fear, for in Jesus there is no

Rest doesn’t come through education or improved economics. Lasting, satisfying

But Jesus offers us to come to him and be loved, and be forgiven, and be adopted as the Heavenly Father’s loved children, who he is proud of. Jesus does change people from the inside-out. In him it is no longer what we can’t do, but a life that is seeking to burst forth in acts of love, mercy, kindness and gentleness, because that’s who we are.

One of my favourite verses is 1 John 4:19 “We love because he first loved us.” Because God has loved you in Jesus you now give from what you have, not from what you don’t have.

What a burden to have a debt to repay which far exceeds what you have.

Living under such stress just grinds anyone down leaving them weary.

Thank God, that in Jesus, we are loved so that we can give from what we have. So that we can give from the heart, a heart full of God’s presence

What is at the heart of the Church?

through the Holy Spirit. Life becomes an exciting adventure we share with Jesus as together with him we live out his love story inviting other people to come into this living vibrant relationship with Jesus.

That’s why Jesus’ yoke is easy and his burden is light, for the discipleship he calls us to follow is one that is giving

expression to his very personality of love. Jesus invites us as his disciples to learn with him how to love as we are loved by him.

Thank God that life isn’t some big test that I have to pass otherwise I’ll be labelled a failure.

Thank God that in Jesus life isn’t about how much we can learn but about how much love we can put into each and every action. All of a sudden even the simple act of giving someone a glass of water takes on a wonderful new perspective. Our life in Jesus becomes a flowing out of who he has created us to be – the loved children of God.

Jesus doesn’t come to squeeze us into some narrow confined shape but to grow and