

we live together as Jesus' disciples.

Let's all seek in some way to be devoted to the Apostle's Teaching, to prayer, to Communion and to Fellowship; sharing life together. I know if I try and do this on my own I'll always fail, but we're not on our own; thank God!

Let us pray. Jesus thank you that we can live a healthy, vibrant loving relationship with you, because you are alive, and you have given your life to free us from slavery to sin, death and the devil. Grow us in our relationship with you this year, that we might together put into practices those habits

which help us spend time with you. Give us a burning passion and desire to spend as much time with you as we can, sacrificing our TV and Sport rather than you. And as we grow help us enjoy watching TV and playing sport with you. Jesus break through and grow us closer to you as your disciples. Amen.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



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

4 April 2010

EASTER SUNDAY—JESUS IS ALIVE

Luke 24:1-12



“Why do you look for the living among the dead?” (Luke 24:5)

Every ‘Good Friday’ we are assured that our sin is forgiven. In other words we are put back in a healthy, right relationship with God, through Jesus. A relationship that is based on his love for us. We can trust him with our lives. We can now share life with God as our loving Father. We can now share God’s life, living it now in the person of the Holy Spirit, looking forward to the day when Jesus returns and our relationship with God takes a quantum leap forward. Where we live face to face, intimately sharing life together.

So ‘Good Friday’ is not the end, but the beginning. It opens the

door to Easter Sunday. After all what good would it be for Jesus to rise from the dead like a snake coming out of hibernation; just looking for something to bit and devour.

What are Jesus first words to his disciples; ‘Peace be with you’. That doesn’t mean absence of conflict but fullness of life, because Jesus has come not to destroy but to breathe his life giving breath into us. Jesus has come to embrace us in his love, so that we can share life together as the closest of friends, as family, as those precious to our heavenly Father.

So ‘Good Friday’ isn’t the end but the beginning. It lays the foundation for our relationship. Can I trust Jesus? Absolutely – he

has given his life, out of love, for you. That’s the ultimate act of love, so you can now live in that loving relationship which God, Father and Son enjoy.

Jesus is alive, ready, willing and able to live this relationship. That’s his passion, that’s what gets him out of bed in the morning, enthused to share a new day with you. Excited about what you might discover together today.

The Father is excited about life with his precious child, not wanting to miss a moment. Wanting to see us take our first steps, then run growing to greater maturity, celebrating life together, enjoying each other’s company.

Sometimes I must admit that I feel like I

stall at the starting gate. 'Good Friday' has opened the door; but how do I live this wonderful new relationship.

Sometimes I feel like the Children of Israel, who once set free from slavery in Egypt weren't quite sure how to live their freedom. It was all new, they'd been slaves for so long, that's all they knew. How do you live with the living God?

The Egyptians had priests, and temples, and holy days. Places to sacrifice, rituals to do, to get God on side and make you prosperous. But we don't need to get God on side, he's already made us loved; which is way better by far. What now? How do we live life with the living God?

Notice in Christianity we don't have any sacrifices; God isn't angry with us in Christ. Notice in Christianity

we don't have a temple building which is holy ground, we have a holy people who have been set apart for life with God in Christ. How do we live life with the living God?

As I reflect on my teen years I reckon I lived knowing and believing that Jesus is alive. I

How do you live life with the living God?

celebrated it every year, but I don't know if I lived it. I don't know if I really expected God to be involved.

Now in saying that I don't mean I wasn't a Christian, because I know my heavenly Father has always loved me. That's not dependent on my maturity, that's just a given, even when I act stupid at times.

So more and more I'm talking and exploring

with Jesus what it means to live with a living God. How do I live that relationship, and not reduce it to a set of rules I follow so as not to be meet with disapproval.

Surely living a vibrant loving relationship is more than doing as you're told under the threat of punishment. In Jesus I'm no longer under the threat of punishment – discipline yes, punishment never.

In Jesus I'm a child of God, whom he loves; and is well pleased with. They were the Father's words to me, in Jesus, at my baptism, and I know my heavenly Father doesn't lie. I can trust him with my life.

When I stop and reflect on Jesus' life I see that he models for me what life with him can look like – discipleship. Jesus calls together disciples. That's people to share his life with

him, to share his passion with him, to grow in their relationship with him, to grow to be like him as they spend time together.

I'm glad Jesus didn't give me a long set of rules and regulations to memorise under the threat of failure, but a person to walk with, to talk with, to grow with, to become like, so that I can grow in bearing the image of God that he has birthed in me. I'm glad Jesus isn't a bully, put has patience, kindness, forgiveness all because in his heart he loves, he loves us, he loves me and wants us to discover with him the fullness of life the Father offers.

How do we live this wonderful relationship of love that God has created for us in Christ Jesus?

Time spent with Jesus obviously is crucial.

How can we do that in a practical way? Set time aside to be with him; reading his word and then meditating on it, giving Jesus time to talk. You could use the SOAP method to help you. You could set about painting your relationship with Jesus, or singing about it, or writing about it and

DISCIPLESHIP

then sharing it. Time spent with Jesus is crucial, that's why the early church were devoted to the apostle's teaching, to prayer and holy communion in their homes. They invested themselves, spending time with Jesus, being open to him, listening to him, opening their hearts and souls to him.

Isn't that interesting, three out of the four habits of the early

church revolve around time spent with Jesus building, growing, keeping their relationship with him healthy and strong.

What was the fourth? Fellowship; that's life shared together. Jesus saves us as individuals, but not to live isolated but to live as

community. To live as the 'Body of Christ'. If I'm to grow in my relationship with Jesus, I need to be loving him, and the way I do that is by loving the 'Body of Christ', by being prepared to die for those Christ has died for.

Thankfully I have a living God, otherwise that would just be totally impossible. But in Jesus it's not only possible it's our new nature that we can grow to maturity in. What an exciting adventure we are called to share with our heavenly Father as