

power) and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for you to gain the whole world, yet forfeit your soul?" (Matthew 16:24-26)

Now is the Time to Harvest; what a wonderful opportunity we have, to live extraordinary lives, making a lasting difference in people's lives, and we seize the day, and make disciples of Jesus, as he has empowered us to do.

Let's put everything else aside, for Now is the Time to Harvest. Other things can wait, Jesus' passionate call to go as the Father sent him, to go and make disciples, is to be all consuming. Now is the Time to Harvest.

So let's stop and listen, that we might hear Jesus' passionate call; 'Carpe diem, seize the day. Seize the day my disciples, I've called you to live extraordinary lives with me'.

Let us pray.
Jesus send out workers into your harvest field. Send

me. Help me to seize the day, making the most of this wonderful opportunity you've given, to make an eternal difference in people's lives. Help me to seize your day and go living as your disciple, denying myself, taking up my cross and following you. Help me to seize your day and go making disciples who will go and make disciples, multiplying all over the world, to your glory, honour and praise. Jesus, thank you for this wonderful opportunity to live this extraordinary life with you. 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

28 November 2010

NOW

Advent 1—Matthew 24:36-44



Over this Advent season we'll be focusing on the theme: 'Now is the Time to Harvest'. Which I'm sure I don't have to tell any cereal farmer. What a powerful reminder of that other harvest that Jesus has commissioned us to reap. That harvest Jesus has dedicated his life to. That harvest of people, which is the very reason Jesus was born. So that people come be saved. So that people can be known by God and come to know him as their loving Father.

When is the right time to harvest? Obviously when the grain is ripe. There's no point in putting

the header into a field when there is no head of grain, or if the grain is still green. But when the grain is ripe, there's no time to waste. Other things can wait, now it's time to harvest.

In Luke 10 Jesus said; "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go!" (Luke 10:2) According to Jesus, now is the time to harvest.

That reminded me of the movie; 'The Dead Poet's Society'. The one phrase from that movie that sticks in my mine is; 'Carpe diem, seize the day'.

In the movie the teacher is trying to inspire his students to action. He's looking at a photo of past students and says: "They're not that different from you, are they? Same haircuts. Full of hormones, just like you. Invincible, just like you feel. The world is their oyster. They believe they're destined for great things, just like many of you, their eyes are full of hope, just like you. Did they wait until it was too late to make from their lives even one iota of what they were capable? Because, you see gentlemen, these boys are now fertilizing daffodils. But if you listen real close, you

can hear them whisper their legacy to you. Go on, lean in. Listen, you hear it? - - Carpe - - hear it? - - Carpe, carpe diem, seize the day boys, make your lives extraordinary.”

In the Gospel reading for today, and last week, Jesus isn't whispering his legacy, he's screaming at the top of his lungs: 'Carpe diem, seize the day, my disciples.' 'Seize the day, I've made you, I've called you to live extraordinary lives'.

Where ever I look I see signs of the 'End Time'. In them hear Jesus' passionate call to you, don't waste this life. I've called you to extraordinary lives. Jesus, in all those signs, is calling you to join him in changing the world. To join with him in

changing people's lives. Now is the time; seize the day. Go, live extraordinary lives with Jesus. Hear again Jesus loud clear call, for all his disciples. This is Jesus' call for all, not just a few, but all his disciples. "Peace be

**Carpe diem
Seize the Day**

with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' With that Jesus breathed on them and said, 'receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, their sins are forgiven, if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'" (John 20:21-23) According to Jesus, the harvest is ripe, and you are

commissioned. So Now is the time. Now is the time to make an eternal difference in another person's life. Now is the time to live extraordinary lives with Jesus. This week as you hear of wars and rumours of wars, of conflicts, of natural and unnatural disasters, let Jesus stir your heart, lean in and hear his passionate call to you; 'seize the day, I've called you to live extraordinary lives.' Now is the time to harvest. Now is the time to bring Jesus into the picture and let him change everything. To let Jesus change the despair of war, conflict and disaster, into the hope of life, life lived to the full as people are embraced in a wonderful loving relationship with the

Father, through the Son, lived out today with the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel reading for today unfortunately we have a picture of a society that has lost the urgency of God's word and are just getting on with life.

"The Arrival of the Son of Man will take place in times like Noah's. Before the great flood everyone was carrying on as usual, having a good time right up to the day Noah boarded the ark. They knew nothing—until the flood hit and swept everything away." (Matthew 24:38) And once the flood had hit it was too late, the opportunity to live extraordinary lives had passed. The opportunity to make a lasting difference in

people's lives had passed. Too late.

Let's seize the day while we still have the opportunity. Other things can wait. Now we have that wonderful opportunity to introduce people to Jesus, to grow people

**With Jesus, live
extraordinary lives**

as Jesus' disciples, so that when Jesus returns it will be a day of unparalleled celebration, rather than a day of horrid surprise.

After our Gospel reading for today Jesus tells three parables about 'Judgment Day'. Jesus is screaming at me; 'the stakes are high. There's no time to waste.' Now is the time of opportunity,

don't waste it, seize the day. The church, that's Jesus community, exists only to continue Jesus' work. That's to go and make disciples, disciples of Jesus. That's how Jesus shows we live extraordinary lives. As we empty ourselves into other people, that they become and grow as Jesus' disciples.

The danger we face is that of getting consumed with many other things, but failing to seize this day of opportunity, this day of change. So Jesus says; "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves (in other words, live according to Jesus' agenda and priorities) take up their cross (do what Jesus calls in Jesus'