

person, in the person of Jesus, so that I live person to person with him, today, tomorrow and forever. I will rejoice forever that the sort of relationship Jesus came to create is one of love, the very love which flows from who God is. I'll be rejoicing forever that I didn't get a text book to memorise and do, but I heard God in Jesus revealing his heart and soul to me, so that out of love and trust I could reveal my heart and soul to him, and share live there. Share living, heart and soul together, share life loved.

We certainly have 'Good News' of 'Great Joy' that is for

everyone. May we all be growing in sharing this wonderful life that Jesus has invited us to be part of.

Let us Pray.

Jesus your love for me is so amazing, thank you. Daily send the Holy Spirit to open my heart and mind that I might know you more and more intimately, growing in love with you each day. Jesus daily embrace me in the Holy Spirit that all I do and all I am is an overflow of your loving presence. Amen.



Christ Church Lutheran

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

Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

12 August 2012
THE LIVING WORD
E100



This week for the E100 readings we have moved from the Old Testament to the New Testament. If someone asked you what the difference between the Old and the New Testament was what would you say?

The first reading we had was from the Gospel of John where we heard those familiar words; "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the word was God." (John 1:1) John immediately focuses on the person. We don't have words on a page we have a person. We don't have words that float out into the air and disappear, we have a person. We have the pre-existent God coming in person.

For me this is the difference between the

Old and the New. In the New Testament God comes in person, to build a person to person relationship with people. We don't have a list of rules to follow. We have a person to follow. We don't have a prescribed list of ritual to perform. We have a person to love. We have a person who loves us, who has come to share his life with us.

If you have a bible near you pick it up and give it a hug. Does the book love you? Does the book care about you? Of course not, it is a book, it's not the person who this book reveals to us. I don't fall in love with a book. I fall in love with Jesus, the person, because he loves me more than his own life. He loves me more than winning an argument. He loves me more than I do.

The bible is a fantastic gift from God because it enables us to see into his heart and soul. What a precious gift we are blessed with. Not to gain knowledge, but so that we can be known and know God for who he is. So God comes in person, in the person of Jesus. I can be loved by a person, I can't be loved by an idea or a ritual.

Then we were given the first chapters of Luke to read. The birth of Jesus, now that's a very familiar story. When it comes to relationships one of the great dangers I find is familiarity. Sometimes I don't see what is right in front of me because it has always been there, so I take it for granted. That's a real relationship killer. Thankfully God doesn't

take you for granted but he comes in person to personally embrace you in his love. To personally invite you to come and be part of his life.

Isn't that truly wonderful, that the God of everything, not only gives you a thought, but that he wants you to share his life with him. Why? And he doesn't want you to share his life as some slave but as one of his loved children in whom he delights and wants to lavish in his love. Why?

Why does God come to us personally in Jesus to build a close personal relationship with us? I don't really know, but I'll be forever grateful. I'll be forever grateful that God's nature is to love, to give his best for us, to give himself for us.

I guess if God had chosen to be grumpy and complain about

how bad things were going, he could have done that. After all he's God. He could have chosen to be vengeful seeking to punish, to reap retribution. I couldn't have stopped him, he's got the power to do what he likes.

So I'll praise him forever because what

We have Good News in Jesus.

he likes is to shower us in a personal, intimate, loving relationship. That's who he is, and he refuses to be anything other than true to himself. And in this lavish love I can now seek to live true to who I am; his child, marked by his love, delight of his life. All because that's what God has chosen to do. All because that's what God likes to do. I'll be forever grateful, rejoicing in this wonderful God, who

allows us to live in this personal, intimate, loving relationship.

No wonder in Luke we hear the angels saying to the shepherds; "Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." (Luke 2:10) We have 'Good News' in a bad news world. We have 'Good News' of great joy. In Jesus we have great joy. Great joy in a person who loves us beyond what we could ever deserve.

I'm always so grateful that Jesus doesn't give me what I deserve, but the love I so desperately need. I'm always so grateful Jesus doesn't give me a list of rules and ritual to memorise and do or be punished. No, he gives me himself to follow. He gives me himself to walk together through life, growing in our relationship together. Growing in his love, discovering the joys of

getting to know each other more intimately, and out of this wonderful relationship I also get to know who I really am.

What incredible joy Jesus brings into our lives, into our living. Incredible joy because it is shared with him, because he embraces me in his loving arms.

We have great joy in Jesus. Have you ever noticed that when you look for joy in an experience it doesn't last long? Without wanting to put down those competing in the Olympic, I'm amazed by their achievements. But as a comparison, how long does the joy of winning last. That euphoria of winning, of having that medal placed around your next. What a special time that must be. But how long does it last?

In Jesus we have a joy that will last forever,

because Jesus will be with us forever. In Jesus we have a joy that will grow, Jesus is returning. We've only begun to taste and see how good God is in Jesus. What a fantastic day that will be when we see Jesus face to face and are embraced in a special new way in his love. Ushered into

We have great joy in Jesus.

an even closer more intimate way of sharing life together. And this is for all people. An Olympic medal is only for a very few, leaving many other people with broken dreams. In Jesus we have the possibility of all people rejoicing, all people winning, because Jesus has come to embrace us all in his love, to pour his life into all of us, that all of us together rejoice in sharing his life with

him. This relationship with Jesus is so precious.

It is truly tragic that even one person might miss out. That doesn't bring me any joy, nor does it bring any joy to Jesus, to God. His passion is that all people come to know his love for them and live in that love and not in fear.

Fear certainly has a powerful grip on life. Outside of Jesus' life is driven by fear; we wear a certain fashion to be accepted and approved. In Jesus life becomes driven by his love; we are secure enough to turn the other cheek. We don't have to win an argument, because our goal is to win the other person. Life isn't about intellectual gymnastics, but loving people, personally, just as in Jesus we are loved personally.

I will rejoice forever that God came in