

rubbish. When life spews out this sort of poison how do you feel? When I'm spewed on I don't enjoy life. When I spew forth I dislike myself.

Thank God we have the wonderful gift of forgiveness in Jesus, where we can take out the garbage and have a clean heart, soul and mind so we live from encouraging words, feelings of acceptance and worth, hope, a future to look forward to. 'Purity' is a wonderful gift for life, life lived in all God's fullness. Life lived in Jesus, known as the Father's child, whom he loves and delights in.

Forgiveness, what a wonderful gift to share.

Who can you share it with this Christmas?

The other gift to share that I picked up from Thessalonians was that of encouragement. In Jesus we are able to build each other up with our words and actions. This isn't puffing people up with nice words. Jesus builds us up in character, his character. We can build each other up in Christ like character through sharing in words and actions of encouragement.

What has Jesus given you to share this Christmas?

Let us Pray.
Jesus again I ask that you pour your love into our lives filling us to overflowing so that our living this Christmas splashes your love over everyone we meet. Infuse in us your strength of character and lead us to repent and seek forgiveness so that we live enjoying a life lived in 'purity' free of the rubbish which only stinks up our lives and those we live with. Jesus thank you for coming to share yourself with us, may we daily seek to share all of ourselves and what we do with you.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

2 December 2012

WHAT DOES CHRISTMAS MEAN TO YOU? SHARING



During this season of Advent we are looking at the theme: What does Christmas mean to you? I know that Christmas is Jesus birthday, but what does that mean to you? How does this person shape your life, your decisions economically and ethically? What does Christmas mean to you?

I asked four people and got these answers; Sharing, Being Thankful, Family and Freshness/Newness. So as we prepare to celebrate Jesus birthday during this season of Advent I'm going to focus on these four areas.

Sharing is definitely high on the Christmas agenda. Sharing time together, sharing food, sharing gifts, sharing ourselves. Jesus on that

first Christmas day definitely came sharing; Jesus hadn't come to share himself there wouldn't be any Christmas, just a hollow empty time of taking to fill that hollow space.

In the three readings for today God shared himself with us.

Christmas is about God seeking to share himself with us, the real person behind all the hype, because he wants a real person to person relationship with you. That's why he comes in person. You can't build a person to person relationship and stay comfortably detached.

God certainly doesn't want to remain detached from those he seeks to love. We are reminded of that from the Jeremiah reading

where God promises to send a Messiah to save his people. Here God is sharing hope; real hope not wishful thinking. Here we have a promise to believe, to hope in, to live from. "In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line..." (Jer. 33:15)

Each Christmas I'm reminded that I have hope to share; real hope, not just positive thinking. We're not like the old joke about a guy who fell of the Empire State Building and each floor was heard to say; 'So far so good'. Now that's positive thinking, but the splat still came at the end. I'm not interested in positive thinking, I have hope to share. The hope of life, life lived to the full. Life lived in the fullness of God's

loving person. Lived with the person Jesus.

This Christmas we all have hope to share; Jesus. And our world is in desperate need of real hope. Jesus has come to save the world, in him we can trust.

The Gospel reading links in with this hope for it reminds me that Jesus is returning. That's part of my hope. Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead. This world

isn't just aimlessly progressing to an end. Jesus will return and right the wrongs. Jesus will return and declare the Father's love for his children to all the world; and those who trusted in their mountain of wealth and comfortable lifestyle will see their world vanish.

Today we not only have hope to share but also a warning, for the reality is Jesus will come to judge the living and the

dead. I'm fairly confident that includes me because I'll be in one of those categories when Jesus returns!

The wonderful hope we have in Jesus to share is that our Saviour; the one in whom we trust, is the one who judges.

He will reveal to all people our true nature;

We have hope to share.

the Father's children, whom he loves and delights to share his life with.

For those who have chosen to go it alone Jesus will reveal their true nature; strangers, rebels and Jesus will say; 'I don't know you.' 'I don't know you. You have no room in my life.' This is no

idle warning. This is no fire and brimstone preaching. This is the reality we all live in. Jesus' perspective is

reality, everything else is an illusion.

That's one reason people use artificial stimulants; they don't like what they see or how they feel and try and hide from it. But hiding doesn't work. Sharing Jesus'

perspective on life has the power to set people free to discover a life you don't want to hide from, but a life you can enjoy, today, tomorrow and forever.

This Christmas we have a very real warning to share and the only hope of salvation to share. What precious gifts we have to share. What a wonderful person we have to share. What a precious relationship we have to invite people into, so that when Jesus returns he will know them and they will know him because they've been sharing life together for years.

So we have life to share right now. That's what I picked up from the reading from Thessalonians; how to live life with Jesus.

I love the blessing that Paul shared. "May the Master (Jesus) pour on the love so it fills your lives and splashes over on everyone around you..." (1 Thess.

3:12 Message Paraphrase) What a wonderful way to live, having Jesus' love splashing out of your life over everyone you meet.

Could you imagine what the world would be like if everyone was so full of Jesus loving character that it splashed out into everything they did and over everyone they meet.

We wouldn't have people at each other's throats claiming their rights, fighting and destroying each other to get what they want. We would not be living like rebels; fighting to get

our patch, fighting even harder to keep it.

So today I want to shower the same blessing on you. Let's pray; "May Jesus pour on his love so it fills your lives and splashes over on everyone you meet this Christmas season." In Jesus' name we pray.

May Jesus pour on his love so it fills your lives and splashes over on everyone.

It's good to remember that what Jesus says, is. Jesus doesn't speak empty words, but life giving, creative words. So as I spoke in Jesus' name that wasn't some nice sentiment, but a very real gift from Jesus.

Paul also declared this blessing in Jesus' name; "May you be infused with strength and purity..." (1 Thess. 3:13) We all need strength to do what we

know is the loving thing to do. And purity is living free from selfishness, living trusting Jesus' ethical judgements simply because we trust him. No debate needed, Jesus says it, that's good enough.

I don't think 'purity' is about making ourselves better than anyone else, but rather living a life free of the rubbish that can so easily fill our hearts, minds and souls. Thank God

that in Jesus we can share forgiveness. That's not focusing on how bad we are but that we thankfully can take out the rubbish and it doesn't have to stink up our lives or the lives of those we live with.

Maybe that's the opposite of lives splashing over with Jesus' love. Lives spewing forth anger, resentment, bitterness, frustration, guilt, hurt, destructive talk, abusive words, all that