

What great wonders our Heavenly Father has to pour out on his chosen and loved children in whom he delights.

What new master strokes will we get to see and enjoy. What new colours will we get to add to this wonderful master piece of life and love?

Let's not waste this amazing opportunity, but let's grab the life Jesus offers with both hands and live it to the full. Boldly stepping out with the Holy Spirit, sharing about Jesus so that our love is multiplied over and over and many more people come into that wonderful relationship of love with the Father

based on Jesus sacrificial death, and life giving resurrection.

Let us pray.

Jesus pour out the Holy Spirit on us so that we don't waste this amazing life you have given us. May our life add many, many more strokes of life and love to the Father's master piece. Lead us this week to people who don't know you so that in your power and authority we can make you known, that they might have the joy of knowing your forgiveness and love, and the life you give. That they might have the joy of knowing you personally. Amen.

---

## Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

27 May 2012

## PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-21



Today I'd like to start by asking a question.

When Jesus was born, was that the beginning or the end? I can hear everyone saying, the beginning of course.

When a child is born it is the beginning of our hopes and dreams. Who will they be like? What will they do? In a sense we have a blank canvas, and we're expectantly waiting to see what work of art is created.

Jesus was born and for thirty years people would have thought they were witnessing a carpenter taking shape. But that wasn't the case at all, there was a much bigger art work being created. The art work of salvation; God searching for his lost love. God in Jesus searching for you. God dealing with the pains

and hurts of rejection, of trust broken.

This led Jesus to faithfully obey his Father to the point of death, death on the executioners cross, so that justice could be maintained. For no healthy relationship could be created by simply pretending nobody was hurt, hiding from the reality. So Jesus steps into our place and as our brother takes the penalty sinful humanity deserved, so that our new relationship would be on a solid foundation. A foundation of sacrificial love, where justice was upheld. When Jesus died on the cross was that the end?

No way! What a tragedy that would have been. Jesus had just opened the way for us

into the Father's heart. Jesus had just paid with his life so that we could come into a right relationship with God. What a waste if after all that nothing happened. If nobody was brought into this wonderful new relationship of love that Jesus had just created through his death. This was a masterstroke in the great art work that God was creating. This was far from the end.

When Jesus rose from the grave, was that the end?

Of course not! This is the beginning of a wonderful new relationship lived with God. Lived with God now as our loving heavenly Father, because Jesus has won the right for us to be reborn as the Father's children. Now the Father waits in eager

expectation to see how his children will grow and mature reflecting his character in their lives. What strokes of colour will they add to his master piece?

Last Sunday we remembered Jesus ascension into heaven, where he now sits at the Father's right hand, in a position of power and authority, as King of his kingdom. Is this the end?

Not a chance! Jesus ascended to heaven so that he could make his next master stroke; sending the Holy Spirit.

Jesus doesn't only open the way for a healthy relationship with God, based on his grace and mercy, but he also makes it possible for us to live that relationship starting now. Jesus' master stroke is to send the Holy Spirit to live with all his brothers and sisters.

The Holy Spirit isn't simply some force that we use to do amazing party tricks. No, the Holy Spirit is God himself. God in person, come to live with you in person, person to person.

If Jesus had stayed in Jerusalem, then to be in his presence we would

---

### Is Jesus birth the end?

have had to do what? Go to Jerusalem.

But Jesus brilliantly turns things around.

Instead of us going to his place, he comes to us and we become his place, the place he feels at home.

Isn't that great; Jesus feels at home with you, not a stranger, not an alien, not an intruder, but at home. At home with his brothers and sisters.

Is this where God's master piece comes to an end? Where is finds completion?

Of course not! With the giving of the Holy Spirit we have a new birth, a new season of opportunity. Once again the Father is waiting expectantly to see what wonderful new strokes are made on his master piece.

A master piece he has now invited us to participate with him in creating.

Each time we share about Jesus, telling another person of his grace and mercy. Share about the hope we have in Jesus, of a life lived free of sin, living out a loving relationship with God right now. Each time we share this story and someone believes it a wonderful new stroke is added to the Father's master piece.

A new child is born, each time a person

comes to faith, trusting Jesus with their lives. Trusting that in Jesus they are forgiven and restored to a right relationship with God, now their heavenly Father. A relationship they can begin living now, looking forward to Jesus' return, where this wonderful relationship will take a quantum leap forward.

When Jesus returns to judge all people, will that be the end?

Hardly! Jesus is the God of life, not dead ends. Jesus will gather all his brothers and sisters together that they might celebrate life together with him in the Father's presence. The love we have in Jesus will find new heights even our wildest dreams can't imagine. And the Father will joyfully and expectantly see what colours, shapes, sounds, new dimensions his chosen and loved children will add to his

master piece as they grow to greater maturity in him.

Unfortunately there is also a regretful side. Those who choose not to add to the Father's master piece. Those who choose to continue to paint the picture of lost love, of hurt and pain, of rejection, of

---

### Is Jesus death the end?

broken trusts, of life without the heavenly Father. Those who continue to do their own thing missing out on the wonderful forgiveness Jesus has won. Never knowing the intimate bond between the Father and Son which is extended to us, and lived out at this time through the Holy Spirit, with the wonderful expectation of so much more to come.

In Jesus we are invited to participate with the Father in creating his master piece. A master piece of his love. A living master piece painted with our lives, with our hearts and souls as we respond to his love. As we respond to God pouring out his heart and soul, being open and honest with us so that we might come to know him and no longer live estranged.

What a wonderful new day we're

living in where we have the opportunity to add living colour to the Father's master piece, as we go in Jesus' power and authority inviting people to trust Jesus with their lives. Inviting people to take that quantum leap of faith, taking Jesus at his word, living it. Joining together with Jesus in the Father's celebration of life, a life which knows no end, only new births.