

who live knowing him personally, who live out of a conversational relationship of love and affection; because that's who we are.

If peace seems to be lacking in your life; take a bit of extra time to be with Jesus. Invite the Spirit to warm your heart with his presence. Invite Jesus to open your heart to his lead, so that you might walk with him where he's leading, doing what he's doing, saying what you hear him saying.

If you look to change your environment hoping to gain peace, I think you'll be disappointed, or worse pushy! Seek to live openly and honestly with Jesus in his power and authority, letting him

shape you, letting him love you. Pray Paul's prayer to know the full extent of Jesus love. Then, in that relationship, step out and live loved, not only because you are loved but

because in Jesus you are love. Amazingly, in Jesus, that's who you are. I invite you to live true to who you are this week. Invite the Spirit to lead and enjoy the peace of God which passes all understanding. I invite you to ask Jesus to fill your heart with his heart that you grow and mature, living true to who you are. And in Jesus, amazingly, you are love! Live it!

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

9 December 2018

PEACE

Advent 2



What comes to your mind when you hear the word 'Peace'?

The word 'War' jumped into my mind. Where there is war there is no peace.

Jesus was born into a world at war. The Roman government controlled their regime through war. If you chose to fight them you were destined to die. Jesus in some sense was killed for opposing the political powers of the day.

What sort of peace do you have when it is violence that keeps the peace?

Is that how Jesus works; you oppose his rule and you get destroyed. Does Jesus keep the peace by fear and intimidation?

In Jesus' day that's why crucifixion was a public act. It was to strike fear into people's hearts. It was to intimidate them into submission. If you stepped out of line, you'd be on one of those crosses, no questions asked.

Is that how Jesus works? At Christmas we celebrate Jesus being born the 'Prince of Peace'. How does Jesus create peace; through force, or is there another way?

I think we all know the answer to that; Jesus creates peace another way. In Jesus' kingdom peace is the result, not of fear but of; what would you say? In Jesus' kingdom peace is the result of; what thought came to your mind?

I'm sure it wasn't selfishness. That's what creates war. That makes me think of what Jesus' brother James wrote: "What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? ... You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them." (James 4:1,2)

How does Jesus work to create peace? If you were to say 'love' you'd be on the right track, for we are told 'God is love' (1 John 4:8). That reminds me that God loves for no other reason than that is his very nature, and God refuses to act any other way. Jesus refuses to act contrary to his nature. In fact you can crucify him and

he'll still love you. He won't change who he is. We've tried that one already!	heavenly nature. That's not perfection, whatever that might mean. Our new nature is Jesus very own nature, and as we grow as his disciples we grow into our new nature. Learning to live true to who we are in all circumstances.	That's where communion is a wonderful gift. Jesus himself comes into us, comes into our heart, into our spirit and feeds that wonderful new nature he has created for us to grow into.	'You become what you eat'?	by Jesus Christ – for this will bring much glory and praise to God.” (Philippians 1:9,10)	lives. And as we live in that reality we grow into Jesus image. We grow to be the person Jesus has given his life for.
Here's how Jesus seeks to create a kingdom of peace: “he puts his spirit within us so that we have a new nature, his nature. In Jesus, when we live true to who we are, we will love, for that is who we are.”	Jesus has placed his	If I were to feed on envy, disappointment, greed, hurt, feeling lost or not valued or not wanted, what would happen to my soul?	Jesus gives us himself that we might become more and more like him, for in Jesus, that's your new nature, that's your new heart. So as you feed on Jesus you can live from your gut instincts because they are shaped by Jesus.	I love this prayer of Pauls; “May you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May	When Adam and Eve were created they were created in God's image. Sadly when they sinned, when they chose to set up their own
Another way of expressing that same thought is discipleship.	Live true to who you are.		If my instincts were shaped by fear how do you think I'd act; defensive, not trusting, unsure of myself, always trying to prove myself. Would this lead to a rich and satisfying life? I don't think so.	In Jesus, You are love!!!	kingdom and not trust God, they lost the image of God. They lost knowing God for who he really is, and in the process they lost themselves.
What's the goal of a disciple? To become like your master. We grow to maturity, living as our master does. Jesus calls us to go and make disciples. Jesus empowers us to go and change people's hearts, that they now have the capacity to grow to be like Jesus.	heart in us so that we can grow to maturity; so that when we're crucified, we don't lash out in rage, but forgive, just as he did. We stay true to who we are; and the world changes around us. In Jesus we have that wonderful freedom and power, to not be changed by what happens to us, but to change what happens around us as we stay true to who we are.	If I were to feed on lies; and the devil is the father of lies. He makes all the promises in the world but never delivers. Talk about disappointment. If I were to feed on lies, what would happen to my soul?	I love the prayer we have today in Paul's letter; “I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding... May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation – the righteous character produced in your life	you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.” (Eph. 3:18,19)	And I've noticed lost people, following lost people, don't find their way. Thank God, Jesus is the way. Or as John put it: Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. Jesus is the one who changes our heart so that we now have the potential to grow becoming like him.
Jesus doesn't use external force to create his kingdom of peace. He changes the heart. He gives us a new nature; you could even say a		In Communion Jesus gives us real soul food; himself!		Jesus invites us, invites you, to come and feed on his love for you, and his love for you is personal. Jesus wants each one of us to experience the reality of his loving presence in our daily	Jesus the 'Prince of Peace' seeks to grow a kingdom of people, who live from a transformed heart,