

we can be still and know that the Lord of Heaven's Armies is here among us; he will do what he says, you can risk your life trusting him.

When people challenged Jesus about resurrection, here is one of his responses. "Regarding your speculation on whether the dead are raised or not, don't you read your Bible? The grammar is clear: 'God says, I am – not was – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob. (And the God of Hedley). The living God defines himself not as the God of dead men, but of the living.'" (Matthew 22:31,32 The Message)

And so today Jesus desires to leave you with real hope; not empty ideas and wishful thinking. Yes,

Jesus, has claimed Hedley as one of Father's loved children, in whom he delights. Yes, Jesus, does hold Hedley in his loving embrace, right now. Yes, Jesus will return to raise all people, so that those who trust in him might have everlasting life in God's loving presence. Yes, Jesus offers you hope, the Lord of Heaven's Armies is here among us. He will do what he says. He has the power and authority.

I invite you to live trusting him today. Trusting him with Hedley, and look forward to that wonderful day of reunion when Jesus returns. I invite you to live trusting Jesus, risking taking him at his word. Risking living life to the full as you walk and celebrate life together.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

9 November 2017

HEDLEY HAROLD KLUGE

21 April 1938—27 October 2017



Psalm 46 was chosen as one of the readings for today as it hit a cord with Hedley when I shared it with him and Noleen as we celebrated communion together in their home.

The Psalm is a reminder of the sure foundation we have in God through Jesus. As I read this Psalm through Jesus' eyes, the word God comes alive; as my heavenly Father who loves his children, who delights to share his life with them.

Through Jesus' eyes I see my saviour; Jesus himself. Jesus who refused to deny his commitment and love to humanity, rather he dies a criminals death on an executioners cross. Jesus, unashamed to be known as our brother, as Hedley's brother. There on the cross Jesus didn't deny

Hedley but gave his life for him, that Hedley might have the hope of life lived to the full embraced in an amazing relationship of love and trust.

Through Jesus' eyes the word God reminds me of the Holy Spirit; God with us every minute of every day. There so that right now we can begin sharing in that wonderful close, intimate, conversational, and affectionate relationship which Jesus created through his death and resurrection.

No wonder, this God, is our refuge and strength, always ready to help. That's his very nature. That's what he has committed himself to through Jesus.

And the next verse reminds me why I need refuge and

strength. "So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea." This imagery speaks to me of those times when the bottom falls out of my life.

Which is what Hedley and Noleen experienced so shortly after we celebrated communion together. The bottom fell out of their lives. It became chaotic, uncertain, fearful, totally out of their control. Where do you look for help in times like that?

Hedley was no stranger to having the bottom fall out of his life, having gone through sorrow and hardship, and in those times he found God to be his refuge and strength. In this relationship Hedley was sustained; given the strength to keep going, finding refuge in

God's loving embrace, in God's promise of hope.

And it is in this God, and his promises that I place my hope today. The hope that Hedley hasn't become a fading memory. I love hearing this verse; 'God dwells in that city; it cannot be destroyed'.

Where is the city that God lives?

The reading from the Gospel of John reminds me that God lives in his

people. His home isn't a building, but a loved community of people. He calls this community, his family, God's children, chosen and marked by his love, the delight of his life. The Father's house is all those who have thrown their lot in with Jesus, trusting him with their lives, with their living.

That's Hedley. He lived trusting Jesus with his life. He's right now trusting Jesus with his life; trusting Jesus to raise him to new life when he

returns. Hedley is trusting that Jesus is his refuge and strength, right now.

Actually I'm the one trusting that Jesus holds Hedley in his loving embrace. Hedley is actually living it, getting to enjoy the reality of Jesus' embrace. Hedley is experiencing his heavenly Father's

God is my refuge and strength

loving embrace. What a wonderful hope Jesus gives us to trust in at a time like now. So I love the imagery of the Psalm, that God is now dwelling in his city; and nothing can destroy his love for his family. Not even death can stop God loving Hedley right now.

Death sure does show my impotence. There is nothing I can do for Hedley. No, there is one thing I can do for Hedley today. Something he's passionate about. I can tell you of the

hope we have in Jesus. The hope Hedley is passionate about today, because he was obviously passionate about his family, and I'm sure his greatest desire is to be raised to life with you all when Jesus returns.

Raised to life to continue God's celebration of life, together.

One of the last things Hedley did was celebrate communion with his family.

Communion is a reminder that God is inviting us to join him in his celebration of life when Jesus returns.

I love reading that Jesus time and time again describes heaven using the image of a celebration. Quite often a marriage celebration. Jesus even turned about 600 litres of water into wine. That's over 600 bottles of wine! What was Jesus thinking!

Wine is symbolic of joy. The joy Jesus

wants us to experience when he returns is one that will be extravagant, overflowing, taking a life time to enjoy.

Hedley is now enjoying being in that loving embrace, tasting the appetisers as he waits for us to join him in this great celebration of life that Jesus has given is life for us to be part of.

Wine, in communion, also reminds me that it cost Jesus his life to give us life.

Wine reminds me that Jesus shed his blood, so that his life might flow through us. So that the life he lives might be what we begin living in now, looking forward to celebrating that life with Jesus as all those other people who have thrown their lot in, trusting Jesus to give them life. Life lived to the full in God's loving presence.

Psalm 46 also reminds me that we are in a war. Did you notice the refrain; 'The Lord of Heaven's Armies is

here among us.' Why do we need an army?

We have an enemy who is out to destroy us; the devil. The devil holds a grudge against God, and he wants to inflict pain on God. So he's gone off to attack what God treasures most, the ones he loves. The children he's created to share his life with, that they

The Lord of Heaven's Armies is here among us

might daily experience living in God's loving embrace. Walking in the cool of the day, chatting about life and love, as they enjoy the aroma of the BBQ.

The devil, due to his selfish nature, has been cast out of heaven and is destined for hell, and is out to take as many people with him as he can. Because he knows God's love for those he has created, and if he can't have that love then nobody should. He's out to kill, and steal, and destroy

those whom God is passionate about; all the people he has created.

I always thank God I don't face the devil on my own, but the Lord of Heaven's Armies is here among us. That reminds me that Jesus has the power and authority to do what he has promised. That reminds me that Jesus

has won forgiveness for us and that in Jesus we all can live and enjoy life with our heavenly Father, today, tomorrow and forever.

And so today it is good that we can be still, and not be overwhelmed by today. We can be still and know that we are in God's loving embrace. We can be still and hear God's promise in Jesus, letting them sooth our heart and soul. We can be still and know the wonderful truth, that in Jesus, Hedley is alive and well, looking forward to that wonderful day of resurrection when Jesus returns. Today