

Jesus. I'm choosing not to believe what I hear in the world so often; when you're dead that's it, there is no more. I'm choosing not to believe that the Joanne you knew and loved wasn't really Joanne at all but just a being that has been recycled, up or down the scale, till hopefully one day they might escape. As who, I don't know.

Today I'm choosing to trust Jesus, that in him, Joanne still is. Her soul is not lost or going to be morphed into something else. No, that's not how Jesus treats his friends. That's not how Father treats his loved children, whom he delights in.

Today I'm choosing to believe Jesus when he says he will return and raise to

new life all those who have died believing in him. Raise them to live life loved; loved by Father. Loved and loving, in a world where all that would destroy this love and trust is banished.

What a great day that will be when Jesus returns and Joanne is raised; body and soul, Joanne, the person you knew and loved. Raised into a world where all the effects of sin, death and the devil are no more. But we will be living face to face with our heavenly Father. Living, seeing his smiling face, experiencing his loving embrace, making choices each day that enrich and satisfy the lives of those we live with.

Let us pray.
 Jesus, thank you for choosing Joanne.
 Thank you for that wonderful life giving invitation we have to walk and talk with you through life.
 Thank you that we know in you we will one day be reunited with Joanne; once again able to share in love and trust. A love and trust that we have only got a small taste of. Jesus, today I choose to believe you. And thank God that Joanne is choosing you today as well.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

Joanne Claire Garam

20 August 1932 — 1 July 2018

Service 9 July 2018



1 John 2:15 NLT - Confirmation Text
 "Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you." (NLT)

Joshua 24:15 NLT - Wedding Text
 "But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." (NLT)

Joanne's confirmation text and wedding text reminded me that in life you are faced with choices. Many, many, choices. Isn't

that true of life; each day we are faced with choices.

Should I have Weetabix or porridge for breakfast? Do I wear my comfortable blue jeans or my trendy cords? Do I do what my wife says or not? Life is full of choices.

We always have choices; which to me begs the question, how do you make good choices?

I know in life I've made some really bad choices. Anyone here managed to make a few choices which didn't work out all that well? Not much fun!

Joanne made the choice to marry Matt; which I'm sure if you'd have asked her, she would have told you that it was a

great choice. Together they chose to have children and were blessed with two precious children, whom they chose to love. Joanne chose to open various hair dressing salons. All good choices.

How do you go about deciding if something is a good choice?

Joanne's confirmation text reminded me to make choices based on what is of most importance. We were guided to 'not love this world nor the things it offers'. Not that the things of this world are horrible, they just can't give you what you really need at the deepest level of life.

If I invested my life in becoming rich and gain millions and

millions of dollars, would I be living a rich, satisfying life?

There's nothing wrong with money. In fact if you have bills to pay it can be quite handy. But money, in and of itself, doesn't have the power to make you happy. It definitely doesn't have the power to love you. Money for all it's good is still a dead, inanimate object.

Should I invest my life chasing after the accumulation of dead, inanimate objects which are totally incapable of embracing me in a loving relationship?

Joanne's confirmation text points us in another direction. It points me to 'the love of the Father'. God wants to be your loving Father; there to breathe life into you, there to support and encourage you, there to walk with you so that you grow and mature becoming

true to who you are. In God the Father, you are his child, chosen and marked by his love, the delight of his life.

I always think it is good news that I don't have to earn God the Father's love. I don't have to try and get him to like me, he has chosen to

How do you make good choices?

love me, he has chosen to delight in me.

How well does life go when you live by the choice of having to be liked? The belief is if you get people to like you you'll be living a rich and satisfying life. But it's a lie, because you're always one step away from rejection. Without meaning to you've chosen to live as a slave to everyone else's expectations.

I've lived there and I can tell you it's a soul destroying way to exist. I wonder if Joanne was ever tempted to try and live by other people's approval.

In Joanne's wedding text we heard the challenge; 'choose today whom you will serve'. Actually when

I hear these words from God the Father, through Jesus the Son, they sound more like an invitation.

In Jesus, God is inviting you into a loving relationship. That's what draws me to the reading we heard from the letter to the believers living in Rome; "So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God." (Rom. 5:11)

In Jesus, God has come to invite us into a loving relationship. Not one of fear and

intimidation, but of trusted friendship. In Jesus, God is inviting you to come and celebrate life together with him in God the Father's loving embrace.

Joanne's wedding text reminded me that at the heart of any marriage is an invitation to share life together in a loving relationship.

In life I'm constantly faced with the choice to invest myself in things or to accept invitations to live a life of love, of trust, of intimate friendship with another.

I know Joanne, chose to invest her life in Jesus invitation, to live in that wonderful relationship of love, of trust, of intimate friendship.

Do you notice I didn't say that Joanne chose to be perfect? In fact she chose not to chase after

perfection; she invested her life in a living, breathing relationship of trust and intimate friendship with Jesus.

Perfection is another one of the world's lies. We look and see what appears the perfect life; if only I could be like that. If only I could be as

Today I'm choosing to believe Jesus.

happy as they are. If only I could be; put in whatever if only you are tempted by, that promises you a rich and satisfying life if only you achieve that elusive goal. If only, then life would be perfect.

Actually if you ever reached perfection, what would be the next step? Fear of losing it!

Good New, God the Father isn't after perfection. He's after you; living in an open

and honest relationship with you, based on trust, the fact that you can trust him with your life because you know he's there for you, doing his best so that you'll benefit according your needs. Your Heavenly Father loves you.

I know Joanne chose to live in this relationship of love that Jesus made possible through his death and resurrection.

I know because of that, that Joanne is still in her loving heavenly Father's embrace today. I love the imagery of Jesus where he says there's plenty of room in Father's house. There's plenty of room because Father's heart always has enough room to love his children. I know Joanne is in that loving embrace, today.

So today I'm choosing to believe