

passing away and will one day let you down. If you're holding onto your ability to reason, your ability to physically do what needs to be done; worry. You're losing it. And once it has gone, as it surely will, what will you have left?

Melva is holding onto Jesus, and he's holding onto her. What a future Melva has to look forward to. When Jesus, her big brother, returns, she'll be able to go gardening with her Dad, her heavenly Dad. Won't that be a blast for Melva. Together they might even create a new flower called a 'Melva' with the wonderful scent of joy and trust.

Jesus is returning; and for Melva it won't be as a stranger, but the one she's been living with all along, enjoying walking and talking with him in every situation she encountered. What a joyous day that will be for Melva.

If Jesus were to come back as a stranger to Melva, of course the whole scene would be radically different. Melva could open the door, say I don't know you, I don't what to buy what you've go for sale, goodbye. What would Melva have then?

Today I rejoice and am glad that Melva's door was

always open to Jesus. He was always welcome. Welcome to come in and greet Melva in his loving embrace, with the broadest of grins on his face, that together they could face life in the hold of the heavenly Father's love for them.

So today I hear Melva saying to us; 'Jesus is coming soon. Hold on to him; walking and talking with him through life, that together we might celebrate the joy of living in our heavenly Father's embrace. Hold onto Jesus, I want to see your smiling face again. Hold on to Jesus.'

Melva Edna Kowald

9 February 1921 —6 July 2018

Service 12 July 2018



Revelations 3:11 Confirmation Text

¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown.

Philippians 4:6 Wedding Text

⁶ Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

Melva was definitely a woman of faith; faith in Jesus. That was seen in the way she lived, the habits she had. One good habit was she made time each week to come here on a Sunday to worship the God

she knew in the person of Jesus.

I'm sure Melva came to worship God because she sought to be walking and talking with him, following his lead throughout the week. She mightn't have phrased it the same as I have, but I'm sure that was here desire.

In Melva's confirmation text we heard that Jesus is coming soon, and that Melva should hold onto what she had. What do you think Melva was to hang onto? The text given to her urged Melva to hold on to what she had; what did she have?

Has anyone here had a stranger come knocking at your door? I've had some real strangers knocking at my door. I'm always grateful I have a security screen which allows me to see who's there before I let them in. You might be surprised to know that I don't just let anyone into my house.

How do you think Melva would have reacted to one of her children knocking on her door? They probably didn't knock, they probably had a key and walked in, greeting their mother, maybe with a hug and kiss. And I'm sure she would

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

have greeted them with a smile.

There is a big difference in how you talk to a stranger and how you greet a loved family member.

Melva's confirmation text was a reminder to hold onto the wonderful relationship of love, grace, mercy, forgiveness which she had in Jesus.

In Jesus, confirmed in her baptism, Melva was adopted by God as his 'dearly loved child, who brings him great joy.' I'm sure Melva was holding onto this relationship as daily she sought to live with this God. The God, who in Jesus had claimed her as his child. The God, who in Jesus, had

brought healing through his forgiving grace. The God, who in Jesus, promised to bring wholeness of life into Melva as they shared life together.

From what I can tell Melva did hold onto what God had given her; and that

What do you hold onto?

was himself, in a relationship of love and trust through Jesus.

That's why her marriage text could be a reality. 'Don't worry'.

If you tell me 'Don't worry' you know what my next reaction will be? To worry!

I'd say Melva had plenty of cause to worry in her life.

She grew up in hard times, the death of her husband, how to look after her family. There were plenty of reasons to worry. Simply saying don't worry really doesn't make any difference.

But notice Paul isn't simply saying 'Don't worry'; he's reminding his readers that they don't face life on their own.

I'm sure throughout her life Melva did plenty of this; pray about everything. Tell God what you need. I'm sure Melva spend plenty of time pouring her heart out to Jesus in her times of struggle and difficulty.

Melva didn't face life on her own, or simply in her own strength, or by her own ability to

reason things out. If that's all Melva had to hang onto, she'd have worried herself sick. I don't think she did.

Whenever I meet Melva I didn't see worry lines but was greeted with a smile. Melva shared her needs and concerns with Jesus, poured her heart out to him, living under his smile. That's why the

worries of her life didn't dominate her. She lived with hope, knowing the loving embrace of her heavenly Father.

That's why she was able to stop and thank God for all he had done for her.

I'm sure that is what Melva is doing now; thanking her heavenly Father for his love, his grace, his mercy, seeing

the smile of her heavenly Father. Smiling in joy over his loved daughter.

Melva is still holding onto this most precious relationship of love and trust which Jesus created through his life, crucifixion and

Jesus is coming Soon!

resurrection.

So hearing that Jesus is coming soon is exciting; is good news. The one who holds her in his loving embrace is coming soon. Melva's big brother is coming soon.

And what do you think he's going to do?

I loved the bit just before these words

where Jesus says; 'They will acknowledge that you are the ones I love.'

You know what Jesus is going to do with Melva when he returns? He's just told us, that he is going to declare to the whole world that Melva is one of the heavenly Father's loved children.

It is this relationship Melva held onto throughout her life, and it is this relationship which now holds Melva secure in her loving heavenly Father's embrace.

What else does Melva have now that she had when she was alive amongst us?

What are you holding onto? Something that is