

us, abandon Barbara,
or will he keep his
word?

I'm betting my life on
Jesus keeping his
word, keeping his
promises.

In the face of death I
trust Jesus' promises
and seek rest in him,
seek life in him.

In the face of death I
trust Jesus' promises
and look to him to
raise me, to raise
Barbara to new life;
life lived in Father's
love and affection,

where we get to
enjoy each other's
company talking
about everything.

Today I want to feast
on Jesus' promises
and be living life to
the full in him. That's
his invitation to you,
to feast on Jesus and
be living life to the full
in him.

I pray you take up his
invitation and in
Jesus live a rich and
satisfying life;
forever.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

9 July 2019

Barbara Noble

13 November 1932—30 June 2019



In our readings for
today, did you notice
we had two great
promises that Jesus
is inviting you to trust
in?

In Jesus' words from
the Gospel of
Matthew, Jesus
invites those who
labour and are heavy
laden to come to him
and he'll give them
rest.

Is there anyone here
feeling burdened,
weighed down by the
gravity of death? At a
funeral I also get
thinking about the
meaning of life; have
I wasted it, am I living
life to the full, what
about all those
mistakes I've made
and the people I've
hurt. What's the point
of it all?

Does the gravity of
life's meaning and
your worth ever
weigh you down?

At times it does me,
for I don't want to
waste my life. I don't
want to be a waste of
time. I want to live
life; a rich and
satisfying life. Not
rich in money but rich
in worth, rich in love,
rich in having made a
positive difference in
people's lives.

And then I begin to
compare myself with
others, and for some
strange reason they
always seem to have
done more. This
comparison weighs
me down.

What weighs you
down?

I think the gravity of
death has the power
to weigh us all down.
In my own power and
strength it will suck
the life right out of
me.

If you're feeling
weighed down, then
Jesus' offer is Good
News. He invites you
to come to him, and
in that relationship he
promises you'll find
rest. You'll find life. In
that relationship
Jesus promises you'll
find a rich and
satisfying life; where
the devil simply
comes to steal, kill
and destroy you.

Today Jesus is
inviting you to come
to him, to trust him
with Barbara, and to
trust him with
yourself. To allow
him to embrace you
in his Father's love,
his Father's worth,
identity and purpose
for living.

I love the fact that
Jesus doesn't go
down the
comparison, work
harder track. He
invites you into an
intimate relationship

of love and affection; where that relationship shapes who we are and what we do.

I always find that thought incredibly freeing, because now the situations of life don't determine me or my response. They become opportunities for Jesus love of me to shine forth and be lived out.

I don't think Jesus ever bothered to compare himself with what other people we doing or thinking. Jesus knew his Father's love for him and simply sought to live in that relationship. So you could crucify him and it wouldn't shape him, he ends up changing it.

Isn't that truly amazing. Crucifixion was designed to be a horrid death that robbed you not only of life but all dignity, leaving you cursed of God. But Jesus has turned it into a

symbol of hope, of freedom, of life, for Jesus is never shaped by the situation he finds himself in.

On the executioner's cross, where those who hated Jesus sought to utterly destroy him; making the mere mention of his name repulsive.

Jesus promises Rest

Right there Jesus lives out love, life, hope. He lives true to his identity as Father's loved son, in whom he delights.

The gravity of the situation didn't crush Jesus; rather the relationship of love and affection he shares with Father triumphed.

Today I see another loved child of Father before me. And the situation doesn't shape or control her. Barbara is Father's

loved daughter in whom he delights. That is her identity today. That is her value today. She is a person of worth because of her heavenly Father's never dying love of her.

Jesus has changed death now into a sleep. Barbara will wake, refreshed, embraced in Father's loving presence, seeking to live life to the full with him.

That's the second promise that I picked up from John's Gospel.

We heard those wonderful words; "For this is my Father's will, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him (and that definitely was Barbara) should have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day." (Jn 6:40)

What an awesome promise; I will raise

Barbara up. In Jesus we need not have any shadow of doubt. Jesus always keeps his promises; you can literally risk your life on that.

So today Jesus is inviting you to feast on his words, to feast on his promises and let them fill your heart and soul, let them fill your life.

Unfortunately the devil wants to steal, kill and destroy you, or at least that's Jesus' description of him (John 10:10).

What happens if I simply trust what I can do? When faced with death, I'm impotent. So do I believe Barbara is lost, gone, as good as never having been? That's what I hear time and time again; when you're dead that's it. Or in other words, your life was a waste of time, you've come to nothing.

How else might the devil be trying to steal Barbara from you today? How might he be trying to kill your hope? What whispers is he placing in your mind destroying memories of Barbara, so you're left simply with a fading memory, or some empty sentiment that has no

Jesus promises Life

foundation?

Today I choose to trust in Jesus' promises.

Because I trust in Jesus' promises that doesn't make them true; they are true, because Jesus has been born our brother, he has lived on this earth and experienced everything we do. Jesus did die a very real death. Jesus has been raised to life by his Father, and is with Father right now,

alive and praying for us, for you. Jesus will come again.

He will come to raise all people to new life. He will raise Barbara to new life and declare to the world that she is Father's loved daughter in whom he delights; the daughter he seeks to live in a relationship of love and affections, in a conversational atmosphere. Father loves hearing the voice of his children.

The very real Jesus; historically documented, is my foundation. I don't have wishful thinking, I have a person who loves me, loves me even more than his own life. And loves Barbara that way, right now and into the future.

Will Jesus, the one who was crucified so that we might know Father's love and affection for us. Will this person abandon