

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.

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## **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