

you; so the thief doesn't steal, kill and destroy you with his empty lies. Don't settle for nothingness, when Jesus offers you a life live in God's love and affection, where you get to share openly and honestly from the heart, living and growing in an identity, a purpose and worth that not even death can destroy, but will only

grow, and grow, and grow, and grow to amazing new heights in Jesus.

That's where Laurel is, now, and I'm sure she's wanting to share that life in Jesus with you; today, tomorrow, forever.

Today invite Jesus to send the Spirit and be living loved; today, tomorrow, forever.



22 October 2019

**Laurel Grace Geisler**

15 January 1926 —14 October 2019

In the reading from Paul's letter to the community of faith in Rome, we heard these words; "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

'Who can be against us', then Paul gives the reason we can have confidence; "Since God did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen as his own?"

Now that is a solid foundation to build your life on; God has chosen you, God in Jesus has given his life for you. I think that trumps anything anyone else might say or do.

But I've discovered in life there are plenty of people, ideas, things

seeking to be against us. Seeking to get us to believe that our identity, our purpose, our value and worth are tied up in things other than Jesus. There are plenty out there who seek to be against us.

One common thought in society is that we come from nothing and we go to nothing. I run across a lot of people who hold this faith; but I'm sure they haven't really thought it through. For this faith says you come to nothing; is that true of Laurel.

Who would say that Laurel's life counted for nothing, for if you add nothing to nothing, what do you get? Nothing!

Wouldn't that be a sad judgement to pass on Laurel;

you've come to nothing.

Today we are reminded that, that isn't true. Laurel hasn't come to nothing, for nothing can separate her from the love of God in Christ Jesus her Lord. So Laurel has come into God's loving embrace.

God gave his life for Laurel, there's no way he'd abandon her now. God chose Laurel as his loved daughter in whom he delights. And God isn't in the habit of changing his mind, or going back on his promise. Especially when it is written in his very own blood.

God is for us, no-one can be against us. God has declared Laurel his loved child, chosen her for life with himself, in a

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**Christ Church Lutheran**

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

wonderful relationship of love and affection, where they share life together from the heart.

In life I know Laurel sought to walk this way with God, seeking to find life in God and his love for her. So I am convinced that nothing can ever separate Laurel from God's love.

Which means today Laurel is in God's love.

Maybe she experiences that love today more than we do. For she no longer has all the hassles and worries which what to rob us of the joy of living in God's loving presence.

Jesus, from the Gospel of John, describes himself as the Good Shepherd. The one whose goal is to do what is best for the sheep that they flourish at his expense.

In John 10:10 (NLT) we read; "The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."

Did you notice what the thief's purpose is; to steal away your certainty of God's love for you. To kill the hope of life lived

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### If God is for us who can be against us?

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in God's loving embrace. To destroy you, having you believe you have to be perfect to be loved, that God isn't interested in you. The thief seeks to destroy you as he robs your purpose for life; God's purpose for your life is simple, he created you out of love, so that you might know in your heart of hearts his love for you, and then let your life be a living expression of that

infinite loving nature of God.

I think that is still Laurels purpose for life. God hasn't given up on loving Laurel. God hasn't said; she's dead, so now I can forget about her. God's passion is still to love Laurel, so that she experiences his loving presence in the depth of her soul, and then it finds living expression in all she does.

In this life things get in the road of us experiencing God's love. We worry, we get anxious, we wonder if we are good enough, we work hard to make ourselves a success. Things get in the road of God's love, but he's persistent, and never gives up.

Not even death can stop God loving us, for even today God loves Laurel. God isn't left with memories like we are, for to God all people are alive, for

nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God loves Laurel. That is where she is right now, in his loving embrace. She's there expectantly looking forward to that great new day when Jesus will return and raise all people to new life, so that once again we have the ability to give living expression to God's love in all we say and do.

Sadly if you believe you come to nothing, then all you'll have to exist from is an empty feeling, a deep nothingness. What will that give expression to? What does nothingness, as sense of worthlessness, a life with our purpose; what does that give expression to?

Laurel is a loved child of God; today. Death can't rob her of that

reality. Laurel will be raised to new life where she once again, but then in total freedom, be able to give living expression to that love in all she does and says. Death can't kill that hope. Laurel's identity hasn't changed; she still is God the Father's loved child,

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### Ask Jesus to send the Spirit that you live loved.

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in whom he delight, and it is this relationship of love and affection that Jesus has given his life for her to live. Nothing can destroy that life which Jesus has given his life for.

So today remember; 'If God is for you, nobody or thing can be against you?' Remember it, believe it, live it. Take Jesus at his word; he's written it in his own blood, and seek to live loved by God.

Ask Jesus to send the Spirit so that you might experience the reality of what Jesus death and resurrection have created. Invite the Spirit to let you experience the reality of Jesus' love, so that your life might become a living reflection of that love. For no other reason than in Jesus, that's who you are.

Invite Jesus to send the Spirit so that your life now is becoming a living expression of God's love for you, no matter how immature it might be. Invite Jesus to send the Spirit so that you live and grow in that wonderful reality, that in Jesus, nothing can separate you from the love of God; your loving heavenly Father, your loving companion the Spirit.

I pray you invite Jesus to send the Spirit that you live in and experience the reality of his love for