

intimate relationship for us to live in together. Trusting Jesus with our decisions and choices, talking them over with him, expecting him to lead us. For the love Jesus has for each one of you is a living, breathing, real love, because he is a living, breathing, real person, today.

Don't settle for creedal statements, or just reading the book. Pursue the person. Get to know the person, seeking to share life with the person daily; in an intimate bond of trust.

This year between now and Pentecost, I'd invite you to seek to develop your personal relationship with Jesus, as you find a quiet place to be with him, sharing from the heart. Begin asking Jesus if there is anything he'd like to say, then listen.

Listen to know him for who he is, not what you might get out of him. Listen and respond, then share. And start with the expectancy that Jesus will be listening and responding because he is alive and passionate about you.

Let us pray. Jesus thank you for loving us in person, for giving us the certainty that we can trust you taking you at your word. Father, thank you for raising Jesus to life so that we have this wonderful living, passionate, intimate relationship to live.

Jesus we invite you to speak, to send Spirit so that we might hear, knowing you more personally, more intimately, that we might then share from our heart and soul with you. Jesus my greatest desire is to live life with you.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

16 April 2017

WHAT KIND OF LOVE IS THIS?

Easter Sunday



Over the season of Lent and Easter we've looked at the theme; 'What kind of love is this?' Thursday I highlighted that this love is personal; Jesus has come in person, to love you person to person. Without another person to love, love is meaningless. Love is not a concept, it is a relationship.

On Good Friday I highlighted that we can trust this person. Jesus death on the cross invites us to trust him. To trust Jesus with what is most precious; yourself. Without trust love doesn't exist. Jesus willingness to die on the cross shows without a shadow of doubt that we can trust him.

What kind of love do we see lived out today; Easter Sunday?

We see a love to be lived in, for Jesus has

come in person, and Jesus has opened the way to Father's heart. We can trust this guy. Jesus bursts out of the grave inviting us to live life with him in the relationship he has with Father.

Here are Jesus' words; words he invites you to trust, "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love." (John 15:9)

Of course if Jesus was dead these words would be pointless. A dead person can't love me. I can't share life with a dead person. The phrase, 'Remain in my love' is an invitation to share life together.

Jesus is inviting us to walk with him, to talk with him, as together we trek through life. It picks up on the image of the Children of Israel trekking through the wilderness following the Lord's lead.

But if Jesus is dead, I can't trust him personally. I can't trek thought life with him; living life to the full together.

Thank Father, Jesus is alive. The grave is empty. I love the words of the angels; "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive?" (Luke 24:5) Jesus is alive, so he is able to love me, personally. I can live trusting him. Jesus is alive so we don't just have words and traditions to do, we have a person to share life with.

What kind of love is this? A love that breathes life into us, because Jesus is alive.

That reminds me of God's work in creation. God begins with a mess and creates life. He creates a living,

breathing, dynamic world to live in and enjoy with him. Father even gives his children the amazing power to create life; "So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, 'Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it.'" (Gen. 1:27,28)

The God we worship is a God of life. Jesus loves us to life, personally. We don't have some impersonal rules and regulations to follow, or else! We have a person we can trust with our lives, knowing he'll never leave us, nor deceive us. Jesus breathes life into us, so that we might share life together in a wonderful bond of trust, a bond of honesty and openness, a bond where we face the ups and downs of life together.

If Jesus wasn't alive, these words would be meaningless; "Peace be with you. As the Father

has sent me, so I am sending you.' Then Jesus breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'" (John 20:21-23)

Jesus is alive, so we now live in his peace;

I have loved you even as the Father has loved me.

that's discovering fullness of life with Father.

Notice I used the word Father and not God, because in Jesus we now have a personal relationship to daily live in. The word 'god' is so impersonal. God brings up images of fear; will he accept me, or will he condemn me. The word 'god' is meaningless in this world of competing gods.

In Jesus, our brother, his Father has now

become our Father. If Jesus were dead this bond wouldn't exist. Jesus is alive; so we live in Jesus, so his Father is our Father, because Jesus is our brother.

What an amazing relationship we are invited to live in; the relationship Father and Son share, in Jesus is open to you, to us.

We know who we are talking and walking with, personally, in Jesus. We know this person isn't to be

feared but trusted. Jesus didn't die on the cross so that we might doubt him; he's not going to change his mind. We can trust him; even when he highlights an area for change.

In Jesus, repentance, is offered. That wonderful ability to change, to grow and mature and not be locked into past mistakes, or wrong directions, of lies that have entrapped us. I trust Jesus, and he comes giving me the wonderful, life giving power of change.

Otherwise I'd be in danger of just becoming the result of what has happened to me in life. I'd be in danger of becoming shaped by my mistakes, my regrets, my thoughtless actions, my limited world view. I'd be shaped by my past, trapped in my past, which is kind of a dead end way to exist.

Thank God Jesus is alive; and I can trust him, I can follow him, I can grow to ever greater maturity in him.

What a wonderful relationship Jesus shares with us. So when I talk with him about anything in life, he is able to answer. That's what Jesus calls prayer; talking with him about what's going on, sharing with him from my heart and soul, because I trust him.

That's why confessing my sins isn't about me trying to get on God's good side; I already am. I know him personally, and he's always open

and honest with me. So I can be open and honest with him; sharing with him the areas of life where I struggle, because that's how I invite him into those areas of life.

Have you noticed that if people don't talk to you about what is going on in their life, you're not involved? Prayer is

Talk and Walk through life with Jesus. He's Alive!

Jesus' wonderful gift where we can talk with him about what's going on in our lives, because we want him to be involved. Personally involved. I certainly want to be personally involved with Jesus.

Of course if Jesus wasn't alive, who are we talking to? Am I just talking to myself? Is anyone out there!

But Jesus is alive; the very same Jesus who has revealed himself to us in our human history. The very same

Jesus who willing was crucified so that you might trust him and trust Father with yourself. The very same Jesus is alive and inviting you to share life; share life as you talk with him daily about all that is going on; listening for his responses.

I hope you have picked up that Jesus is after a personal relationship, based on trust, lived out daily. So Jesus invites us to share with him, to talk to him about anything, so that we might hear his response and follow him.

If Jesus wasn't alive, Christian prayer would be totally pointless because we'd be talking to a dead person. And I've discovered talking with a dead person is very much a one way conversation. Jesus is alive; we have a dynamic two way, personal relationship to live.

That's what Jesus came to create; a personal,