

walk through life with him, trusting him, being open and honest with him, letting him see into you as he lets you see into him, into his very heart beat. That beats for you.

What a risk. Jesus faces rejection, every day. But fear doesn't motivate him; his love for you does. His passion to share his life with you motivates him to come personally, inviting you to share with him and know his amazing love, to know him.

When the present is opened the next thing is what do you do with it?

Discard it because it wasn't what you wanted. Drop it and unwrap the next one,

and the next one, and the next one, and the next one.

At Christmas Jesus allows himself to be unwrapped.

What will you do with him this year?

Drop him for another toy that looks bigger; bigger isn't always better. Let him be swept away with the busyness of life? Seek to spend time, inviting him into your heart and soul; making time to chat about life, family, work, passions, hopes and dreams. It's in the sharing, the make time to talk with another that we invite them in; that we allow them to see into us and our lives become wonderfully interwoven and personal.

Jesus allows you to unwrap his personality, his character, his heart and soul so that together you can live and experience that wonderful interwoven and personal life.

What will you with Jesus this?

Please don't in anyway feel this is some way of manipulating you, or putting you on some guilt trip. Jesus says; 'Don't be afraid, I'm genuinely interested in you, the real you. Don't be afraid, my love for you is real.'

So I pray you hear Jesus this Christmas saying; 'I love you. Let's discover life together.'

24 December 2017
**MISSION—I WON'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?**

Luke 1:26-38

How far would you go to show someone that you loved them? What would you be prepared to sacrifice to show that you loved another person?

When it comes to you, Jesus has answered that question. The answer begins with his birth. How far was Jesus prepared to go; from heaven to you.

Later the bible reveals that Jesus quite literally went from heaven to hell. Now I'd call that radical love.

At Christmas time I hope you all hear clearly Jesus saying; 'I don't want to live without you, I love you'.

What lies behind the idea of giving

presents? I'm sure a big part of it is showing people that you are thinking of them, that they are significant to you, that you were prepared to give of your time and money to let them know, you love them.

Who likes knowing they're loved?

As we unwrap presents it reminds me that Jesus is inviting us to unwrap his gift of love; himself. Jesus comes in person so that we might know him personally, so that we might be attracted to his loving nature, so that we might share life as a wonderful adventure together. Jesus invites us to unwrap the layers of his love and discover life with him, life up

close and personal, life in a wonderful conversational and affectionate relationship.

If Jesus had stayed in heaven, aloof from us, we'd have been left wondering what's in the box.

I know as a kid I used to like guessing what might be in the presents under the Christmas tree. I'd pick them up, shake them, squash them, and try and imagine what was in those beautiful presents.

I vaguely remember receiving a gift from my brother; it was really long. It was big so I was excited because as a kid I worked on bigger is better. I excitedly tore into his gift; with more and more paper

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

on the floor. With the gift getting smaller and smaller till all that was left was a matchbox toy!

Not what I'd expected. He was laughing. I was disappointed.

Good News, God didn't want us to be left guessing, he wants us to know who he is, so that we can build a real down-to-earth, everyday relationship of love, with the real person. Not our guesses from shaking, squashing, imagining what the present holds.

In some ways I see the world like the wrapping. We can shake and squash creation and imagine what might be behind all this wonder. But it still remains a mystery.

Have you noticed you can get up close and

personal with a mystery? You definitely can't love something that is unknown.

God's answer to his dilemma, was to come in person. Remember one of his names is 'Immanuel'; God with us.

How far would you go to love someone?

Do you also notice in the Christmas story how often the phrase; 'Don't be afraid' is found. Mary is told not to be afraid for God has found favour with her. Joseph is told not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife. The shepherds are told not to be afraid. Herod made everyone afraid!

You can't build a personal relationship of love, trust and affection with

someone or something you're scared of. That will only make you run and hide; not open up and be real.

So Jesus comes, in person, born our brother. We don't have a mystery, we have a person. And in Jesus I get to know

God. I get to know what he likes and dislikes. I get to discover what makes him tick. In Jesus I get to unwrap God's personality, so that I can get to know him.

And at the heart of God's present to us is his heart. As I unwrap God's personality in Jesus, I discover a heart that beats with love for me.

Thankfully I don't end up with a whole heap of rubbish on the floor having been made fun of for someone's amusement.

That's not a dig at my brother; I could see the humours side and I liked playing with my matchbox toys.

But sometimes life can feel like we're left in a heap of rubbish, as others laugh, ridicule, look-down on you. Life can feel like after all the effort all you have to show for it is a mess. Work 40yrs for the same company and receive a watch as you're shown the door, with someone else taking your place. And everything goes on the same without you.

What are you pouring your life into?

Jesus goal is to pour himself heart and soul into loving you; personally, affectionately, conversationally. So I pray that you hear Jesus speaking tenderly to you declaring his

undivided loyalty and love toward you. I pray you hear in your heart Jesus' prompt, his message, his gift; 'I love you. Let's explore life together.'

It's the only reason he was born. It's why he lived here on earth. It's what he gave his life for on

Jesus has come risking rejection.

the cross. It's what he's committed to today; 'I love you. Let's explore life together.'

When someone risks declaring their love what's next?

Jesus has come, risking rejection, opening his heart and soul so that we can see right into him. That's a good description of intimacy; see into me.

How risky is that? The moment I open myself up to another person, I've left myself open to the greatest hurt of all, rejection.

Personal rejection; how soul destroying that can be. What a risk.

A risk God has taken in Jesus. Coming to us, to you, personally, opening up his heart and soul, inviting you to share life with him. To be open and honest, sharing your heart and soul, that together you discover the greatest wonder of all; living loved and loving in God's embrace.

So this isn't a story about something long past, the Christmas story is lived out every day, for Jesus hasn't changed. His passion is that you come to know him personally. That you