

two way street; it is being loved and loving the other.

Have you noticed that's at the heart of the new command? Love one another as I have loved you. I'm loved so now I can love. But if Jesus love falls on a cold heart and nothing changes; what happens?

Today Jesus reminds me that the Father dearly loves me. Today I'm reminded that Jesus has reached out in love and touched my heart, inviting me to live loved with him.

I don't know about you, but that's where I want to be. I most definitely want to know Jesus love, experiencing his personal presence in my life. And through that love I want to be growing and maturing

in living loved. I want to play my part in that two way street; being embraced by God in Jesus, and embracing God in Jesus.

Embracing God as I share my hopes and dreams with him; daily inviting him into my heart, that together we enjoy the adventure of life.

I invite you to join with me in pray; accepting Jesus love, accepting Jesus personally, as he has come to us in person.

Jesus thank you for coming in person to love me, so that I might live dearly loved by the

Father. Jesus I invite you to fill my heart with the Spirit's presence that I know you personally and let you know me personally. I want to be living up close and personal with you, sharing with you my hopes and dreams, listening to your hopes and dreams. There's no other place I want to be than with you; personally with you, as Father's dearly loved child. Amen.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

25 December 2017

MISSION—JESUS IS CALLING YOU.

John 1:1-5, 10-14

How would you describe the meaning of Christmas? I ran across this passage the other day and it shout out to me; 'THIS IS CHRISTMAS'.

I was reading through the Gospel of John. I love reading John chapters 14, 15, 16, 17 because Jesus time and time again says things like; 'Ask me, and I'll do it. Ask me for the Spirit and he's there. Ask me.' I love the assurance, the confidence Jesus gives in these passages.

As I was enjoying reading and reflecting on these wonderful words this phrase jumped right out and blew my mind. Here are Jesus words; words he's speaking to us today; "Then you will ask in my name, I'm not saying I will ask the Father on your behalf, for the Father himself

loves you dearly because you love me and believe that I came from God." (John 16:26,27)

The Father himself – did you notice that; the Father himself loves you. He loves you dearly. As I re-read the passage instead of the word 'you' I replaced it with my name.

Remember these are Jesus' words. This isn't made up. This isn't my imagination dreaming up what I want. These are Jesus' words.

As I re-read the passage I used my name; "the Father himself loves Tim. He loves Tim dearly." Re-read that passage using your name; for it's meant to be incredibly personal. The Father himself; that's personal; loves you, that's personal. Not only loves you but you are dear to him. He

loves you dearly; that's personal.

That's Christmas; God coming in person so that we might know him personally.

So I love reading the beginning of the Gospel of John where Jesus says; "I am the Word". Jesus gets personal. All through the Gospel of John Jesus does that; 'I am the way. I am the truth. I am the resurrection.' We have a person, not a teaching, not a theology, not a reason for being. We have a person who loves us dearly.

That's Christmas; Jesus come in person that we might be loved personally as Father's dear children.

What a wonderful relationship Jesus came to create for us to live in and enjoy. To

celebrate with him being loved by Father. To celebrate discovering life lived to the full.

Jesus' stated goal, which is also found in the Gospel of John is that; "he has come that you might have a rich and satisfying life" (John 10:10 NLT). That rich and satisfying life is discovered and lived out in a personal relationship with Jesus.

The context of that stated purpose is Jesus describing himself as the 'Good Shepherd'. So it is a personal relationship, where Jesus knows his sheep; calling them by name. That's personal. And his sheep know him. They recognise his voice and follow him. They trust him with their lives. That's personal.

For Jesus is born, in person, to create a personal relationship based on love and trust. "The Father himself loves you dearly

because you love me (that's Jesus) and believe that I came from God" (John 16:27).

Did you notice what this personal relationship is built on; because you love me and believe that I came from God. This personal relationship is based on love and trust.

The Father himself, loves you dearly.

Loving and trusting the one born at Christmas; that's the person Jesus.

"So 'The Word' became human" (John 1:14). The God of the universe who existed before the world was a thought in Father's mind. 'The Word' became one of us; part of his creation. Our Brother, so that we might join him in living life as a celebration of Father's love; being loved dearly.

Early on God sent some words through Moses;

and we totally corrupted them. Humanity ended up using God's words to keep God at a distance. He wasn't seen as personal, but someone to try and please, someone to be scared of, someone to impress so he wouldn't punish us.

People took the Ten Commandments; God's very words on how to live in a loving society. We took his written word and it became a barrier to

knowing him. We took his words and made him into a tyrant; someone to be terrified of. Needless to say, that's not the type of relationship Jesus is after.

Sadly, God, outside of Jesus, always seems to get put in that box; someone to be scared off, someone to appease, someone to ignore because cold hard words don't soften our hearts.

So Jesus comes in person; a living

breathing person. A flesh and blood person, just like you. So Jesus comes that his heart of love might touch your heart and create genuine love, the very love of God pulsating through your veins.

Jesus is born that you might experience the love of God, personally. After all he's a person.

Have you noticed you can't fall in love with an idea, or a possession. We use the phrase; I love an idea, but that simply means you find it of value, or just like it. It's not love for no other reason than an idea, or a possession can't love you back. And love is a two way street.

You fall in love with another person. Love is a personal thing. Another person can love you and you can love them; that's love. Love is a two way street; it's got to be personal.

So Jesus comes in person to love us. To create a relationship of trust; that's what it means to 'believe'. You trust the person; trust them taking them at their word, living by what they say. I believe the person; that's personal.

That's Christmas; in Jesus, the Father

Love is a two way street.

himself loves you dearly. This relationship then shapes who I am, and gives me an identity and purpose that are personal.

Did you notice I said that love is a two way street?

When a person reaches out in love and it isn't received; what happens?

In Jesus, God personally reaches out to you, seeking to love you, to love you affectionately, to love

you discovering life together, to love you sharing your heart and soul telling each other what is on our heart and soul, not being aloof or distant from each other.

When a person reveals what is on their heart and soul, seeking to create a personal relationship, and it isn't received; what happens?

Each Christmas I'm reminded that Jesus has come, in person, to love you, so that you might live loved, for the Father himself loves you dearly, because you love Jesus and believe that he came personally from God.

Each Christmas I'm reminded that love is a two way street. Jesus comes in person, reaching out in love that we might know him personally, and join him in the adventure of life; a rich and satisfying life.

But unrequited love doesn't create a loving relationship. Love is a