

part of the family, what does that make you? Royalty.

I must admit that at times I don't live like royalty because I believe the lies around me; of which there are many. Like, you're not worth it. You're not good enough. If people really knew what you were like they wouldn't respect you. People only like you for what you have. I don't belong. The devil loves to whisper his lies to rob you of life, to destroy your relationship of love with Father, to kill your true identity; because he's envious.

Who do you listen to? Good News – we have the God of the second chance, not the tyrant of perfection, as our loving heavenly Dad.

Good News, in Jesus, you are, not might be,

but you are the heavenly Father's child, chosen and marked by his love, the delight of his life.

So today I invite you to live true to your new nature, inviting the Holy Spirit to grow and mature you as you live loved in that wonderful affectionate relationship Jesus has created with Dad. As you live that conversational relationship; heart to heart, letting life flow from this wonderful intimate conversational relationship.

Let's pray.  
Jesus we invite you to send the Spirit so that we grasp the reality of who we are in you.  
Jesus we invite you to send the Spirit that we live true to who we are today; living this wonderful new natural supernatural life of love with you. Jesus open our hearts to where

you're giving us a second chance to grow in a certain area of life. I want to grow to be all that I am in you. I want to be living loved today; loved by my heavenly Father, today. Jesus send the Spirit so I experience the reality of what you have created me to be. Amen.

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## Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

21 January 2018

## THE GOD OF PROMISE; YOUR DAD

Mark 1:14-20



Someone once told me that the opening verse we heard from Jonah was their favourite verse; do you remember it?

Here it is; "Then the LORD spoke to Jonah a second time" (Jonah 3:1). He loved this verse because to him it spoke of the faithfulness of the LORD. Did you notice the text doesn't say God but the LORD? That's the name God uses as he describes himself as the God of promise. The God who has committed himself to his people. He doesn't give up on the one's he's committed to.

He didn't give up on Jonah but came to him a second time. Not because Jonah deserved it but because that's God's nature. The God of promise will always give us a

second chance, and a third chance, and a fourth chance. As many chances as we need, for he won't ever go back on his word.

In baptism God sealed the commitment to humanity he made in Jesus. He seals that commitment personally, individually, committing himself to you. Declaring himself your Father, inviting you to call him, Dad, because in Jesus that is what he is, your Abba, Dad.

Does God make promises willie nillie?

At your baptism, God, the God of the universe, or as the Old Testament sometimes describes him; the God of Angel Armies, this creator of the universe, comes freely and commits himself to you. And this relationship is sealed in the blood of his Son, Jesus.

The power and authority that lies behind baptism is the cross. Jesus, freely, giving his life that you might be set free from sin and live life with God. Live life with God in a relationship of love and affection. Live life with God in a conversational relationship; where you speak heart to heart. Live life with God as your heavenly Dad, chosen and marked by his love, the delight of his life.

Does living life with God in this way come naturally?

I've noticed that people struggle to prove themselves to each other hoping to win love and acceptance. I've noticed that people struggle to understand their worth as a person and what life is all about.

What is life all about?  
Why are you here?

Thankfully we don't exist simply to make a profit; though at times our society might leave you feeling that way. If you're not doing anything profitable you're a waste of space; get a job. Does earning money make your life worthwhile?

dress to impress, to look dashing, debonair, sophisticated, sexy. I drive a nice car, live in a nice suburb, have nice friends so I must be a nice person. I don't want to be seen as a nice person so I live the 'Rebel'. I do what I want when I want, I'm free, I'm independent; but does anyone really like me. I

Sadly our struggle to find self-worth, identity and purpose all scream out a resounding; NO! This relationship doesn't come naturally.

That's why we celebrate Christmas. Jesus, born, so that we might live life with our heavenly Dad, naturally, through him.

It does help pay the bills, but does it make your life worthwhile?

### Does living with God in a relationship of love and affection come naturally?

So in the Gospel reading for today Jesus comes and invites people to follow him. To be his disciples. In

I've noticed that feeling loved doesn't come naturally. I've seen people do the stupidest of things to feel accepted, to feel wanted, to feel loved. Why do young men drink too much? One part of the answer is to fit in, to feel accepted, to feel worth, to feel a man through the accolades of his mates. But does being able to drink lots of alcohol make you a man, make you worthwhile?

want to be liked so I do what you like, till I feel like there is none of me left.

Does living with God in a relationship of love and affection come naturally? Does living with God in a conversational relationship; where you speak heart to heart come naturally? Does living life with God as your heavenly Dad, who has chosen and marked you by his love, seeing you as the delight of his life, come naturally?

other words to learn to live life as he does.

Actually that's not quite the best way to put it because I've discovered; you can't learn to be loved. It's a gift. You can't learn to be worthwhile. It's a gift. You can't learn your identity. It's a gift. You can't earn love. It's a gift. A gift you get to live and discover; that's discipleship.

Have you ever heard this phrase; 'We are saved by grace for Christ's sake, through

I've noticed people struggle with identity; who am I. So people

faith.' Grace means God's free gift to us, and that free gift is his Son, Jesus, who dies on the cross that we might come to live life trusting God as our loving heavenly Dad. That's faith; trusting God as our loving heavenly Dad, because we trust Jesus; we trust that through his death and resurrection he wins life for us. So we listen and do what he says; because we trust him. So we watch what he does and seek to do the same; because we trust him.

Because we know when God makes a promise, he always keeps it, because that's his nature and he'll never go against his nature.

If that's Jesus' nature and you are now in Jesus, what does that mean about you? That means it is now your new nature, and Jesus has come to grow you to live true to who you are. You don't learn it, you discover more and

more your true identity, gifted you in Jesus.

This reminds me of a passage in Paul's letter to the Galatians; "For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on new clothes" (Gal. 3:26,27).

### Jesus' goal; that you come to know his Father as your Father.

This is Jesus' goal; that you come to know his Father as your Father; your loving Father who delights in you, his child.

So Jesus came preaching God's Good News. "The time promised by God has come at last!" Jesus announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!" (Mark 1:15)

Believe the Good News; Jesus has created a new identity for you, giving you a new name – God's loved child, the delight of his life – and when God speaks, God creates.

Believe the Good News; repent. Don't hang onto those old lies any longer, cast them into the garbage where they belong. Don't live a slave to you insecurities, to other people's opinions, to your need to belong.

Don't waste life existing as a slave; grab God's promises to you in Jesus with both hands and live life in all his fullness.

Believe the Good News; you are a citizen of heaven. You belong in the Kingdom of God, as a child of God.

Have you ever stopped to consider that you are royalty? In Jesus, you are a descendent of King David. Jesus recreates you as his brother, his sister, so if he's the king and you're