

you might enjoy Dad for who he is; and together enjoy each other; person to person.

Today Jesus reminds me that the world is not an end in itself. It exists as an expression of our heavenly Father's loving nature. It provides a place for us to discover each other and grow in a wonderful intimate, loving, affectionate relationship as we walk together in the cool evening breeze, chatting, heart to heart.

Let us pray. God, thank you for this world and all it's wonders. Thank you for sending Jesus into the world to open our hearts and minds that we might see you and know more about you through your creation. Jesus, we invite you to send the Spirit so that we see and experience Dad's loving nature and personality through all he has made. We invite you

to send the Spirit that we enjoy Dad for who he is, and together enjoy playing in his big sandpit, living and growing in that wonderful loving, affectionate, intimate relationship you have created. Dad we love you, let's play.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

4 February 2018

HARVES THANKSGIVING

Isaiah 40:21-31



The words of the prophet Isaiah that we heard this morning at first give me the impression of God being aloof, distant. "God sits above the circle of the earth. The people below seem like grasshoppers to him!" (Isa. 40:22) If God wanted to be distant and aloof, then that's what he could be. If God simply wanted to sit in judgement and blow people away as 'wind carries off the chaff' he could. Who would be able to stop him?

God is not answerable to us, to you.

So today as we remember and are thankful for the bounty of our world it reminds me that God seeks to bless us, because at heart he

loves us, because that's his nature.

As you bite into a juicy, delicious peach, it is telling you of a God who doesn't want to be distant and aloof, but seeks to bless you. To bless you with the joy of taste, the joy of food.

After all God could have simply given us one food to keep us alive, with no taste buds to enjoy it. But God has blessed people with taste buds and a myriad of flavours, and tastes, and textures to enjoy. Not just to keep us alive, but that we might enjoy the work of his hand. That we might enjoy his blessing.

Could we draw from that, that God desires us to enjoy him!

Ponder that for a moment as you delight in your favourite drink; this is telling me that God desires that I enjoy him. Not just life with him, but him, the person, person to person.

Do you live life believing God's desire is for you to enjoy him?

Outside of Jesus, I'm not sure what people make of the world, or more to the point what they make out of God. I don't think people come to the conclusion from enjoying the beach that God's desire is for them to enjoy him.

I see people trying to enjoy life, seeking to live life to the full. I see people earnestly working at creating meaning and purpose for their life.

I see people passionately seeking to develop an identity for themselves. But outside of Jesus I don't see people knowing that God's desire is for them to enjoy him, to share life with him; person to person.

I don't know how you'd share life person to person with someone you don't know.

In Jesus, the Good News is that we do know God, personally. He's not some mysterious force behind the world we see. He's not some impersonal force. I don't pray, 'may the force be with you'. When I pray, because of Jesus, I know I'm talking with my heavenly Father, who loves me, who delights in his child. It's personal.

So the relationship Jesus has created for us to live in and enjoy colours the way I see the world around me.

Well it colours the way I see the world around me when I take time to reflect on all that Jesus has done, and what that means. I know when I get busy and don't bother to stop and reflect I just take everything for granted, and miss enjoying God. I miss

Why do we have waves?

enjoying the relationship of love Jesus has created for us to live in as each day we get a delightful taste of our heavenly Father's extravagant love through the amazing creation he invites us to enjoy with him.

This week, if you stayed up, you would have got to enjoy the wonder of the lunar eclipse. You could have enjoyed watching Dad's light show, as he sought to delight his

children. After all why do we need a lunar eclipse or have the senses to appreciate and participate in it if it wasn't that our heavenly Father wants to share himself with you? Wants to bring a smile to the faces of his children as he plays with them.

Did you see the lunar eclipse as your Dad putting on a show for the kids he loves?

Outside of Jesus, I'm left thinking that it was amazing, but pointless. I'm a speck on the earth and the moon is a distant, inanimate object which knows nothing about me. I guess if I was a surfer I might be wondering if the moon's orbit might have created a good set of waves.

Why do we have waves? Why should fiberglass float and catch the power of the wave? Why does this create a feeling of pleasure? Why

does it create a high for people? Surely it's not all just chance, or a pointless distraction between the cradle and the grave.

So today we're making time to stop and enjoy our heavenly Dad. Actually that's the goal of every Sunday. Today is a time to reflect and remember that Dad has breathed life into us that we might enjoy it all, enjoy it with him, as we enjoy him.

That's what Jesus makes possible; life with God as our loving heavenly Father, who we know person to person. How can I enjoy life with a think I don't know or understand? I find it interesting that in most other religions around the world God is something to be feared; something to appease so it will be nice. We fear it's wrath; so best to offer a sacrifice or two to

get on it's good side, hopefully!

Thank God, in Jesus, that's not how we see the world. Thank God, that in Jesus we now get to see the world as an expression of our heavenly Father's love for us. Thank God, in Jesus, we get to see and

Walk together in the cool evening breeze, chatting, heart to heart.

experience our heavenly Dad through his created world. Created so that we could share life together, enjoying each other, getting to grow closer together as we explore this wonderful world together.

Thank God, in Jesus, we get to see the world as our Dad's great big sandpit, created for his children. Created that we get to enjoy life together, we get enjoy each other.

So today as I give thanks to God for this wonderful world, I don't feel like a 'grasshopper'; insignificant, a pest. No, through Jesus, I more and more begin to see my heavenly Dad, and enjoy him. As I experience his masterstrokes in creation, I experience

the master, and as his child enjoy making a few masterstrokes with him. I also marvel at the intricacy of life

that Dad has created, that tells me of his intricate nature, that he wants to share with me. That Jesus has made possible for me to enjoy as I get to live in Dad's intricate expressions of life.

When you look at the world, invite Jesus to open your eyes so that you might see Dad. Invite Jesus to stimulate your senses that you might experience Dad. Invite Jesus to send the Spirit that