

the final word on everything. At the centre of all this, Christ rules the church. The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence." (Eph. 1:20 -23 Message)

Our king rules and he is achieving the purpose for which he rules. He speaks and acts filling everything with his presence, his redeeming presence.

Jesus invites you today to live with him, in that personal, intimate, conversational relationship which he is living. Jesus invites you to allow him to love you, so that as his love shapes you,

your life becomes the living reality of Jesus' love.

This week I invite you to take a few moments and reflect on the fact that Jesus is king and that he has sent the Spirit to live with you, that you might live in the reality he creates through his death and resurrection. Ask Jesus to reveal himself daily, inviting him into your heart and soul, for he's opened his heart and soul to you. Invite him in and enjoy living with your brother, your king, enjoy living life in all his fullness.

I don't want to have the ideal home, Father's heart, and never live in it; never experience it. In Father's home, I belong, I have my own room, and I want

to get in there and make it look lived in, enjoying life, up close and personal with God, in the Spirit, through the Son.

I invite you to talk with Jesus, and invite him to help you experience the reality of life together this week. Ask Jesus what he's got in mind to do today; and then go do it. This week as you pray, I invite you to listen to the living presence of the Spirit with you. Invite the Spirit to speak and then listen, grab the first thought he gives you and do it.

Jesus has brought you into Father's heart to live there; don't simply have it, live it for all he's worth.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

13 May 2018

GOT IT—USE IT—DON'T WASTE IT

Acts 1:6-11



Today I'd like to begin by getting you to think of something that cost you, something that you had to sacrifice to get, that you had to invest yourself body and soul to achieve.

I know some people have given their all to buy a house; gone into debt, sacrificed holidays, sacrificed what others were doing so that they might gain their dream home.

What have you invested yourself in; sacrificed yourself for?

When I was young the passion was to be able to buy a car. Not just any car, but something that would impress. So we'd put the majority of our money into buying a car; it felt important. I know a friend of mine

who's brother spend all his time and money, not only on buying a car but modifying it, so that it was his dream car.

What have you invested yourself in; sacrificed yourself for?

Just imagine you meet a person who sacrificed themselves to buy their dream home. They've brought it, it's theirs. But you find them living in a rundown rented unit. What thoughts would be going through your mind?

They sacrificed themselves, went without, been prepared to suffer so that they might have their dream home. And then they don't live in it! What would be going through your mind?

Imagine my mate's brother, after thousands of hours and thousands of dollars finally finishing his dream car; only to never drive it. He keeps driving around in some old rust bucket; worried about the police defecting him. He's got his dream car sitting under wraps in his shed. What would you be going through your mind?

You know what I'd do with a dream home that I owned? I'd live in it. I'd use it. I'd invite others over to enjoy it with me. I wouldn't want to be living anywhere else.

You know what I'd do with my dream car? You guessed it, I'd drive it. I'd enjoy it. I'd bring it to your place and show it off, and

then take you for a spin. I'd be ripping off the wrappings and using it for what it was made.

To not use these things would be what?

Of course the Gospel story is all about God investing himself to build his dream home; he calls it a temple. God invests how much? The whole story of the bible is about God investing all he has. He comes in person. He pays with his own life.

Jesus is nailed to a cross and feels abandoned of Father; though he doesn't every believe it, he still endures the agony. What a price Jesus pays.

Jesus pays with his life so that we might have life with him. Jesus dream home of course is made up of the people he loves, the people he cherishes, those in

whom his Father delights. Jesus pays with his life; crucified, rejected, mocked, ridiculed, bearing the shame and disgrace of appearing to be rejected by God.

What a price Jesus pays. He gives his all, withholding nothing.

What a price Jesus pays

And Jesus is raised to life on the third day. Jesus has destroyed the old temple and built a new one three days later. In Jesus the way has been opened for you and I to live in Father's heart; his children, Jesus' brothers and sisters. In Jesus we are legal citizens of heaven; that's what he creates at the price of his life.

Wouldn't it be strange for Jesus to then go and live in

the old house again; the old house of rules and regulations. The old house built of stone, which isolated the Father from his loved children. Why would Jesus want to go back to that old way of doing things?

What an absolute waste of his life, if he goes back to living by

rules and regulations, when he's opened the door of a living, vibrant, conversational, loving

relationship. A personal relationship of love, to be lived and enjoyed. What an absolute waste of his life not to live it.

How does the risen Jesus make all he has won a living reality and not waste it?

This week much of the church celebrated Jesus ascension into heaven. That's step one in Jesus enjoying all he has created. That's Jesus getting

ready to live full time in his new home.

Jesus ascends as king. Jesus ascends to Father's right hand. Of course that's not a literal picture, but that represents the place of power and authority. Jesus now has the power and authority to live as the king of his new kingdom.

The 'Kingdom of Heaven' is another way of describing Jesus ideal home. And he lives there as king. He lives there exercising his rule for the good of his kingdom. Jesus has ascended to heaven, as King, to exercise his rule, to live in his house.

Jesus didn't disappear, to again become some strange unknown. Wouldn't that defeat everything Jesus has spent his life doing? Jesus came that we might know Father personally, heart to

heart, and live out that most wonderful relationship of love; the very love Father and Son share now extended to you and me.

Jesus then sends the Holy Spirit to fill his house; his temple, his kingdom, with the personal presence of God.

God comes in the person of the Holy Spirit

Using our image, God comes in person to live in his dream home.

After all, God didn't give his life to live in some rundown dump when he's build his dream home at the expense of his life.

In the Spirit, God comes in person to live in his dream home; his new temple. And that's you and me, that's all those who believe in Jesus, all people who

have faith in Jesus, trusting him with their lives.

If Jesus had just be crucified and risen and stopped there, what a potential waste. He'd have built his dream home but then not lived in it. Why build your dream home, at the cost of your life, and then not live in it?

God comes in the person of the Holy Spirit to live in his new home. Jesus rules now as king over his kingdom.

So I love this reading from Ephesians as it is put in the Message Paraphrase: " All this energy issues from Christ: God raised him from death and set him on a throne in deep heaven, in charge of running the universe, everything from galaxies to governments, no name and no power exempt from his rule. And not just for the time being, but forever. He is in charge of it all, has