

sacrificed his life that we might have life with him; intimately. Jesus has sent the Spirit to be with you today, that together you face the ups and downs of life. That in the power and authority of your King, Jesus, you don't just survive but thrive.

Jesus has fought for you. Fought and won life for you, up close and personal with God, your Abba, Father. Jesus has fought for you so that now, today, you can be living out that wonderful conversational relationship of love and affection he won, living it today with the person of the Holy Spirit.

In Jesus, we're winners. And winners are grinners, for we live under the smile of our heavenly Dad. We live knowing his

favour. We live knowing him, not fearing him. We live knowing him, not fearing life, but in Jesus' power and authority we get to grab life and live if for all he's worth. What an amazing life Jesus has won for us to discover, what adventure he's calling you to join him in, what amazing love he daily showers on you to live in, to live out, to rejoice in.

We're at war; but the devil's no match for Jesus. He's been defeated, please don't hand the victory back to him. Take Jesus at his word; resist the devil and he will flee, come close to God in Jesus, and be living that wonderful conversational relationship of love and affection that he has given his life to live with his mates.

Invite Jesus to pour out that all consuming fire into your lives that he burns up the enemy who would destroy you. He's won the war; trust him with your lives, with your decisions, with your identity, trust Jesus with your future. Trust Jesus with everything and live the victory he has won. Trust Jesus, and take up the fight to save the lives of your mates still trapped, whose lives are at risk.

11 November 2018

THE WAR TO END ALL WARS



Today we remember Armistice Day. It is a century since the war to end all wars ceased. It was out of the Great War that we got the ANZAC myth, the Gallipoli myth that helped shape our national identity. I love that this is more a celebration of mateship than about war. I love that part of our national identity is shaped by a war we lost! But we didn't bail on our mates. No Australian was left behind; you stick with your mates through thick and thin.

Out of Gallipoli comes Simpson and his donkey. What a great legend. Simpson gave up killing people, and would bring the wounded down to safety on his donkey. Till he was killed.

That reminds me of another guy and his

donkey. Jesus, who came riding into Jerusalem, to be crowned king, riding on a donkey. What does that say about Jesus?

Like our ANZAC myths, Jesus story is a war story. Actually Jesus has fought the war that signals the end of all wars; and that's a fact.

I love this prophesy from Isaiah; "The LORD will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes. They will hammer their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation nor train for war anymore." (Isa. 2:10 also Micah 4:3)

War is horrific; it steals, kills and destroys people's

lives, and nations. But we are living in a world at war, the war between God and those who want to overthrow him and set up their own kingdom.

The wars that have been going on since Adam and Eve have been about people wanting to set up their own kingdom. Wanting to have the power and authority to do their own thing; and if you stand in their way you will be removed.

Was the end of World War 1, the Great War, the end of all wars? Not even close. People have been fighting, nations have been fighting, to set up their own kingdom so that they can do what they want.

The wars around us; both domestic and national, simply expose the rebellious

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

heart born in all of us. The wars that surround us flow from a rebellious heart. A heart that holds this belief; if I want it, it should be my right to have it, and you can't stop me.

Jesus is the only one who has struck at the heart of war; our hearts.

What has Jesus promised to create? Let's hear what Jesus has promised to create through the words of the prophet Ezekiel; "I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within them. I will take away their stony, stubborn heart and give them a tender, responsive heart, so they will obey my decrees and regulations. Then they will truly be my people, and I will be their God." (Ezek. 11:19,20)

Jesus doesn't create a new heart in us by killing us. Yet when I look around that's what I see happening

all the time; people killing others to gain for themselves. People killing others to expand their kingdom, their influence, their chance of a better life. I see a pyramid way of living where the goal is to be at the pinnacle, and the only way to be there is by standing on top of everyone else.

The heart of war; Our Hearts!

How does Jesus win this war, this war for your heart, for you? Make no mistake, you're in a war. Your heart, that's who you are, what makes you a person, is on the line. We are living in a war zone and people's lives are being destroyed.

Jesus, our King, has come and fought for us. Notice Jesus fights for us, not against us. That's the lie the devil loves to spin; that we are at war with God,

that God is this angry all consuming fire that we need to run and hide from. The devil has sown the fear of God in our hearts. Since the fall we have been running and hiding from the only person who can save us; that's God. The person who created you, personally, out of love.

Thank God he came in the person of Jesus so that we might know him for who he really is. Thank God he came seeking us, risking life and limb that we might have life with him. God refused to abandon his mates. Would God save himself leaving us to have our lives robbed, killed, destroyed? Not a chance. God came in person, came into the frontline trenches to save us; his mates.

I know not everyone likes the word 'mate' but I hope you grasp, and take to heart the reality which is being expressed; that God has risked his life that

we might be at one with him.

God hasn't come to be remote, distant, giving orders from the safety of heaven. God's passionate desire is from an intimate relationship grounded in his love for us. God is after you, living out a wonderful conversational relationship of love and affection, personally.

I don't think there is any other way of living out a conversational relationship of love and affection other than living it personally.

When I watch movies on Gallipoli there is always that contrast between the mates in the trenches and the generals safely away from the fighting making moves as if playing chess. They're detached, their objective is to seize ground, and they use the resources at their disposal.

Amazingly our God isn't like the generals. Our God, in Jesus, came into the trenches to fight for us.

Have you ever noticed how many people died in Jesus' Great War? His war to end all wars. How many people died Good Friday? How many soldiers did our king

Only one person was sacrificed

send to their death that day so that he might gain some ground?

What figure have you come up with? How many lives did Jesus sacrifice so that he might gain some ground?

Not one soldier died that day. Only one person was sacrificed that day, so that we all have the hope of life. Jesus sacrificed himself so that you might live. So that you might discover the joy

of life lived up close and personal with Abba, Father.

Jesus' goal is that we might live life, mate to mate.

That's how God lives today. Jesus didn't go back to heaven to ignore us, but sent the Spirit to be with us. The Spirit has come to live with us in the trenches. He's not remote, or distant, but living with us on the front line.

I remember being taught that the word 'paraclete' which is used to describe the Holy Spirit is taken from war. Where a soldier cries out and hear his mates reply; they're in it together. He not facing the assault alone; his mate is there with him. Together they face the fight and win.

Never believe the devil's lie that God is remote and has left you to face life in all its ups and downs on your own. That's a lie. Our king, Jesus, has