

hands up in the air because it was all too hard. Not at all, he took Jesus hand and together they took that leap of faith; living loved, pain and all.

Tonight Jesus is inviting you to join hands with him and Father and together take that leap of faith; living loved, pain and all.

And as you take that leap I think you'll discover the wonder of love growing, of love going through the furnace coming out pure, shining bright, and with a strength you've never known before.

Do you risk the pain, or take the painless option of the devil?

The devil's option will leave you without true love, feeling alone, without hope, lost in a sea of pain.

I'm glad Jesus took Father at his word, trusted him, and took that leap of faith.

That's how I want to be living every day; taking Jesus at his word, trusting him

with my decisions, taking that leap of faith so that I join Jesus in living loved by Father.

What about you?

20 March 2019
JESUS' PRAYER IN GETHSEMANE
Luke 22:39-46



I find Jesus' prayer recorded for us at Gethsemane, very short. I don't know about you but if I was facing hell itself I might have tried to twist Father's arm just a bit more. I might have let out a very long litany of complaint; it's unfair, they deserve it, why me. That's always a good one, why me; where often I'm implying I'm the good guy so get stuck into the bad guys.

All we have recorded are these few short words; "Father if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." (Luke 22:42)

For me these words alone don't portray the agony that they were wrapped in. We're told; "an angel

from heaven appeared and strengthened Jesus. He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood." (Luke 22:42)

Obviously this isn't some casual conversation, but Jesus is pouring out his heart and soul. I find it amazing that Jesus needed an angel to come and strengthen him. What must have Jesus been going through, and not just for a moment. Three times Jesus goes and prays. And Jesus comment to Peter was, 'can't you watch and pray for an hour!'

Jesus was in this state for hours; a minute would have been too much for me. I'd have wanted

to bail and find an easier alternative.

Remember the devil had offered Jesus an easier alternative at the start of his ministry. All Jesus had to do was bow down and worship the devil and the world was his; no pain. I'm sure the devil was right there reminding Jesus; he did have options, an easy option, with no pain.

Where might the devil seek to tempt you with his options; his no pain options?

Lots of times, if I'm honest, I don't pray 'Father if you are willing', I'm more directive. Like, 'Get me out of here!' 'You need to fix this and now, don't you know what you're doing!'

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

Sometimes I'm tempted to question why Father isn't willing, because it looks so wrong to me and I can see a better way. Why can't he agree with me? Sometimes I'm tempted to pray more like; 'Father if you can then why don't you, or aren't you up to it.' 'Do you hate me and want me to suffer.'

I don't know about you but I'd rather avoid pain. I think I'm allergic to pain. But I live in a world of pain.

Jesus didn't avoid pain; he rather chose to place his life into his Father's hands, pain and all.

Father not taking the pain from Jesus meant he would suffer horrifically too. They plunge into this pain together. They plunge into this pain; but it's not the pain that shapes them, it is their passion for those they love that shapes their action.

Jesus finds strength in this intimate relationship he shares with Father. Jesus finds strength as Father personally embraces him through the angel. He's not alone. They're in this together. It is the love they share, that they live in, that has lead

Jesus didn't avoid pain.

them to this point. And it is this relationship of love which will find incredible depth of expression as they go through this time of suffering together.

You could say that it is in the furnace of suffering and pain that love is made to shine all the brighter; is purified, is amplified.

They don't run and hide. I'd have run and hid, like my mate Adam. He ran and

hid from the consequences of his actions hoping to avoid the pain. How well did that work for him?

Jesus prayed; "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." Jesus takes an incredible step of faith, trusting Father, and together they step into the pain and shame of the crucifixion. They step into it together because they can't abandon those they love. They absolutely refuse to be anything other than true to themselves; and God is love.

So Jesus is inviting us to join him in this prayer. Jesus is inviting us into living from the intimacy he shares with Father. So our lives too might be a step of faith, as together we go to seek and save the lost because we can't

abandon our brothers and sisters. We join with Jesus and absolutely refuse to be anything other than true to who we are in him; and in Jesus our new nature is love; Jesus sacrificial love, the love that stepped into this world of pain. Not avoiding it. Not hiding from it, but Jesus steps into this world of pain, into this furnace, and brings us out into a world of amazing love and intimacy with Father; which translates into a world where that amazing love begins to transform our relationships with each other.

Avoiding pain, taking the easy option or the short cut, doesn't heal this world of pain. Jesus offers healing. Jesus offers life, a life not shaped by pain, nor the fear of pain. Jesus offers life lived in that intimate relationship of love and affection he shares with Father.

So Jesus invites you to join him in this prayer, because he doesn't want pain or your fear of pain to rob, or steal, or destroy your life. And that's what pain will do to you, if all you are left with is pain.

Then people run and hide in all sorts of

Jesus with Father plunged in.

things and activities. But running and hiding doesn't solve pain, often it just lets the situation that causes the pain to grow and become overwhelming.

Jesus, with Father, plunged in, motivated by their love, their trust, their relationship of love and affection, and the crucifixion became the way to have life in all God's fullness.

That's most definitely what I want; life in all

God's fullness. So I choose to join Jesus; 'Father your will not mine'. 'Father, I'll walk with you into this world of pain, so that people might find hope and healing.' 'Father, I know there is no other way to love someone personally, than to be with them person to person, to be with them facing this world of pain together.'

'Father, I know without you, I don't stand a chance, so I praise you because I know in Jesus, I'm not alone'. 'I invite you to open my heart and mind to the Spirit, so that I might walk intimately with you.'

Have you noticed that prayer is a wonderful gift of intimacy, of relationship? Father has opened the door to his heart; he's listening.

Father didn't turn a cold shoulder to Jesus or throw his