

true to who we are, as he shapes us, and as we live true to who we are in him we shape the world around us. I'm not the product of my environment, I'm the result of God's love in Jesus. My future shines bright, for one day I'll be living face to face with God, celebrating life together with him, in his presence. What an amazing full, rich and mind blowing life that'll be. And through the Spirit, God wants you to be having a taste of it today. A taste to excite you about the future; life live in his presence.

In Jesus, God wants your life to be a taste of him, setting people free for life with him.

My burning desire is to be living in Jesus presence; daily experiencing the reality of his love, forgiveness, grace, mercy. My

burning passion is to be, becoming all he has dreamt possible, living shaped by him. I want to be living in the Spirit's presence so that I hear Jesus voice and we share heart to heart about life in all its joys and sorrows.

Let's pray.
Jesus I invite you to send the Spirit to be with me today, and throughout the week. I want to be living in the reality of your presence. I invite you to speak to my heart, so we share intimate times of conversation. Jesus I invite you into every area of my life; even the areas I'm ashamed of. Jesus may I know

your presence this week so that I might be living out your supernatural love quite naturally; to your honour, glory and praise. Jesus fill me with your audacity and boldness for life, so I live with you as the hope of the world, letting all heaven break loose and plunder hell. Jesus come and let me experience your presence this week.

17 November 2019
HOUSE OF PRAYER
Luke 21:5-19



Last week I talked about Jesus' temple being a place of prayer. And the temple Jesus meant was us; his community of faith. We are a people who are invited into an intimate relationship, where conversation from the heart is the norm. Living in God's presence is the norm.

Today we heard of Jesus' disciples marvelling over the Temple Herod built. They were talking about the majestic stonework. I believe some of those stones were the size of a railway carriage. Herod's temple must have been truly a wonder to behold.

So what Jesus says must have shocked them to the core. Jesus says that this majestic building, this place they believed God lived in, would become a pile of rubble. Not one stone

left on another. I'm sure the disciples found this hard to believe. But that's what happened.

God has no desire to be stuck in a building. God's passion is what?

God's passion is to share his life with those he loves. That's why the Temple Jesus creates is people. The people God lives in a relationship of love and affection with. The people he shares his life with, in daily conversation.

God's not interested in ritual for ritual's sake. God's not keen on being ignored or turned into a theory. God wants, in Jesus has given his life for a living, vibrant, relationship where there is true intimacy; a heart to heart relationship. A place where we can be vulnerable, where we can be real with him.

That's why we have a time where we confess our sin; because there we are being vulnerable, being open in the area where we normally keep the door closed. In Jesus, I know I can trust God, so I can open the door to him, even inviting him into my darkest secrets, my greatest hurts, my most cringe worthy episodes. I invite him in, and his presence brings healing, life, vitality, loving me to the core.

It is his presence that I desire, that I'm after, that's where I want to be living; in his presence.

Good News, that's our future in Jesus. When Jesus returns, all that keeps us distant from his presence will be removed. Our future in Jesus is to be living up close and personal with God; knowing him as

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

our heavenly Father, experiencing the depth of his love. What a great future we have to look forward to, to grow into, to shape the way we live today. We have God's presence.

So Jesus warns his disciples not to panic when things go wrong; horribly wrong. Jesus says; "when you hear of wars and insurrections, don't panic... nation will go to war against nation... there will be great earthquakes and there will be famines and plagues... there will be a time of great persecution." (Lk 21:10-12)

These are only signs that point us to Jesus' presence. Everything else is falling apart. If you don't believe me, watch the new! What is there you can hang onto, what gives hope for the future, for today. Jesus' presence; he's not falling apart, he's present with us, to embrace us in his love, to give us the strength and courage to live life

to the full. Not without struggles, but amazingly in the midst of turmoil and pain.

In Jesus presence an amazing thing happens; the world around us doesn't shape us. My fears don't create me; wouldn't that be truly sad, your fears shaping you.

His Presence

No, Jesus presence shapes me, emboldens me, giving me a fresh hunger for life. So I live like Jesus, not being shaped by my fears and the world around me, but living in faith, hope and love, shaping the world around me. Jesus presence shapes me; that's his promise.

This world of turmoil draws me closer to Jesus, for it shows that his presence is the only thing, only one I can rely on. This world of turmoil reminds me that outside of Jesus all I

have to look forward to is a world in conflict. I end up with my fears and insecurities shaping me. What does that look like? As I said before, just look at the new tonight; then tell me what you see and hear.

Personally, I long for Jesus' presence. To be living in his presence; not just sometime in the future but now. Who would like to be living with Jesus, now? Not words about Jesus, not theories about Jesus, not stories about Jesus, but the real person. Who would like to be living with Jesus, now?

That's why I love hearing that Jesus tore down the old temple of stone and created a new one; a community of people who have his living presence. I think that's meant to be us; you and me, living in God's presence, today, through the Spirit. Looking forward to that great new day when Jesus returns and we share life in his

presence, person to person, experiencing his love like never before.

But we don't have to wait for some unknown time in the future; we get to begin living in God's presence now, through the Spirit. We get to experience God's love, now, through the Spirit. Amazingly we get to begin living out that wonderful supernatural love of Jesus, quite naturally now. In the Spirit we have begun living in Jesus presence, all be it very immature.

So I love not having a temple made of stone, for I don't invite people into a stone building. Wouldn't that be boring. I get to invite people to come and experience life in God's presence; through the Spirit, whom Jesus has sent. I don't invite people to be a part of a ritual, but to be embraced in Jesus loving presence, for Jesus is real.

The turmoil of life is also real. You can face

it on your own, doing the best you can, with the limited strength you have, but where does that get you? Stressed, panicking, worried, wondering what hope there is, always having to be fighting, trying to get better, but it all seems so overwhelming. The turmoil of life is real.

God's passion is to be present in your life.

Or you can face life with Jesus; in God's presence. Living by his truth. Living in his love. Taking Jesus at his word, knowing his presence with you through the Spirit. You can face life talking with Jesus, listening to him, knowing his presence in all of life.

So Jesus' temple is a place of prayer; not a stone building or powerless ritual. Jesus' temple is where he dwells, he's present.

So today we haven't just gathered in a stone building, and recited a ritual, we have come to be in God's presence; so that during the week we don't miss him, rather we live daily in his presence, hearing his voice, following his lead, letting him shape us, shape us into his image. I want to be open to God's presence through the Spirit all week.

God's passion is to be present in your life, and for you to know you're present in his life, in his heart.

What boldness and audacity Jesus seeks to fill us with; so we're not running scared of our own shadow, not worrying about what other's think. Jesus breathes the presence of the Spirit into us so we live with his boldness and audacity, so that we live out his supernatural love naturally, shaping the world around us.

What freedom we have in Jesus; in his presence we get to live