

reflect on the rock which you are cut from; don't let the devil, sin and the world rob you of your identity and the joy of life that Jesus seeks to share with you.

Remember who you are, and bring your hopes and dreams to Jesus, inviting him in. Be prepared to hear Jesus inviting you into his hopes and dreams. I'm sure what Jesus has in mind will totally blow my mind taking me into a life way beyond anything I could ever have imagined, let alone make possible.

In Jesus you have the keys to the kingdom, so use them, build on that rock solid word of authority. Speak Jesus authoritative word as he has given it to you. Speak his hope and reject depression.

Speak Jesus' word of love and reject insecurity. Look to the rock from which you are cut and speak that word into your life, into the lives of those you love.

I pray you don't let what happens to you determine who you are. I pray you don't rely on what you can do to give you joy and happiness. I pray you look to Jesus, the rock from which you are cut, and invite him to breathe his life into you, that you might be making his choices in life, that you might be a living expression of his love, of Father's person.

I pray that you live building your life, yourself, on the rock solid foundation who is Jesus. Daily invite Jesus in that he shapes who

you are and what you do, and enjoy discovering all he has made possible for you to live into. I pray you daily seek Jesus, that in and through him you make right decisions and enjoy living loved by him. Don't let anything else lord it over you; in Jesus power and authority reject everything that would seek to lord itself over you and invite Jesus to come and rule. Invite Jesus into your heart, living free in his kingdom. I pray that Jesus kingdom comes and his will is done in your life this week. I pray you pursue Jesus, being eager to hear his voice, walking into the life he's won for you.

23 Augusts 2020
ROCK SOLID
Isaiah 51:1-6



The reading we had today from Isaiah began; "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the Lord." Would that be anyone here today?

Of course it is; the whole world is looking for a way to live that leaves them feeling satisfied, rich and full. Every person I've ever meet has been seeking a 'Lord'. That's someone to trust in. Someone to build their life with. Someone to love and be loved by.

I certainly am in the pursuit of righteousness; that's right living, living that leaves me feeling worthwhile, that I've got purpose, that I count, that I make the right choices in life.

God knows I've

made plenty of wrong ones, and I'm in no hurry to repeat them. What about you? I much prefer making the right choice, the choice that leaves my feeling alive and loved.

Isaiah invites us to listen. I must admit I have problems listening, especially when I know I'm right. I can become rather stubborn at times.

Who do you listen to, to gain the best decisions in life? Who do you listen to in regard to your finances? A financial advisor who can make you into a millionaire? Who do you listen to when it comes to your relationships? Do you find your relationship leads from 'Home and Away'? Who do you listen to, to find joy, happiness, love?

Isaiah got me to stop and think about who I'm listening to. There are so many voices out there. Some I listen to without even realising it. A friend of mine has given up watching the news because he found himself becoming depressed by all the troubles, worries, wars, conflicts he was shown each night. Thankfully Isaiah points us to listen to God. He pointed his original hearers to 'look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth.'

That points us to the God of promise. That points us to the God who does what he says, because he has the power and authority to keep his word.

Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

There's no point in making promises if you can't keep them. I've found listening to empty promise doesn't help me make the right decisions or build loving, trusting relationships. Of course when promises are kept that breathes life into us, builds us up, creates trust in the one giving the promise.

God kept his promise to Abraham, which was a promise for the whole human race to trust in. God promised us a saviour. A person; not a theory. Not an idea. Not a bunch of tips for life. God promised us a person who would open the way into a life of healthy choices, into a life of love and affection. And we know that person by name; Jesus.

Isaiah calls us to, 'look to the rock from which we were cut'. In the Gospel reading for

today; Matthew 16:13-20 we heard these words by Jesus; "On this rock I will build my church". (Matt. 16:18)

The rock Jesus points us to is himself. It's not Peter who confessed that Jesus was the Messiah. My hope is in the one chosen by God to save

What's the rock you were cut from?

us, to bring us into a relationship of love and affection with him. Jesus is the rock we are cut from.

The image of rock gives a sense of certainty, so we use a phrase like 'rock solid' to emphasise that something will happen. It's not a passing fad; it is 'rock solid'. If the foundation I build on is 'rock solid' I can have confidence in the rest of the house.

If your foundation isn't rock solid you'll end up with cracks, or worse, the whole thing could crumble down around your ears.

Has anyone ever felt like their life was full of cracks, or worse, at times everything just seemed to be falling

down around you? I think some people might be feeling that way about the COVID-19 pandemic. Our economy is

cracking. People are losing their lively hood. Some have lost loved ones.

Jesus is our solid foundation, the rock that supports us and gives us strength and hope to cope with such times. As you face this pandemic listen to Isaiah's words; 'look to the rock from which you were cut'. Look to Jesus, pour out your heart to him. Open your heart to him, that

you hear the hope he offers.

If I listen to my fears and anxiety and build my life on that, everything will come crashing down. Thank God, in Jesus, we have a solid foundation. Jesus is not a crackpot but the rock solid foundation we get to build our life on.

After all the pandemic will pass, Jesus is returning that we might get to live in his loving presence. I loved this image from Isaiah; "he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing." (Isa. 51:3) Wow, what a future you have in Jesus. I'm looking forward to exploring this new Eden with Jesus and you.

But before then we get to experience the joy of living life

with Jesus, building our daily decisions on his rock solid grace and mercy, his totally dependable loving presence.

So Jesus invites us not to crack up but to come to him, to pour out our hurts, failures, mistakes, to him, that he might

'Rock Solid'

forgive. That is that he might pour his life into us, that he might restore, re-energise us for life. Living life discovering all that Jesus dreams possible. The cracks of life don't define me, Jesus does. In him I'm not a crackpot, I'm able to make right decisions, life enhancing choices.

In Jesus I replace fear with hope. I am able to repent, inviting Jesus into any and every situation I am in.

Even when I'm to blame, I can invite Jesus in as my saviour and he comes to heal, to renew, to set me free. What a rock solid foundation we have for life.

You're not cut from greed, insecurity, anger, resentment, a need to have other's praise. That's not what you're cut from. You're cut from Jesus, and he never goes back on his word. I have gone back on my word, and that has caused regret; but I'm not the product of my regret. That's not what I'm cut from.

I hope you're hearing the wonderful hope these words convey. You are cut from Jesus; that is God's loving presence, in person. In Jesus, you're a chip off the old block; that's God himself, who has made himself your Dad.

I invite you today to take some time to