

WELCOME 18 November 2018 – 25 Pentecost '18 B

Philippians 3:1-21

Good morning! Welcome to worship today! It is great to have you here. Please stay with us for morning tea after worship...we need to be together...

We continue to journey through Paul's letter to the Philippian church this week... Particularly chapter 3...*BIBLES*...and this verse seemed especially fitting: *Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord.*

Not especially easy given our faith family's tragic sad loss and what that means over the course of the next many years as we walk together into a radically unexpected way ahead. But Paul also writes this *I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...I want to know Christ & experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead...I press on to reach the end of the race & receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus is calling us.*

We *press on* Paul says to make the reality of the life of Jesus in us tangible in this world. We *press on* to make the promise of salvation evident for the world to see & experience. We *press on* to make the rule of grace & mercy open to all.

We *press on* Paul says until God calls time.

That's what it means to be Living with Joy

One of the ways we do that is to engage the wider world through our shared ministry with Compassion International. We're going to hear from Pam & Gary Krieg today as they share their experience in Africa with Compassion & their sponsored child.

We'll obviously also share at the end of worship some ways we are sharing the grief of the Tait family and what our ministry with them will look like over the coming days weeks months & years.

Let's pray...

PRAYER OF THE DAY

"I'll take the hand of those who don't know the way,
who can't see where they're going.

I'll be a personal guide to them,
directing them through unknown country.

I'll be right there to show them what roads to take,
make sure they don't fall into the ditch.

These are the things I'll be doing for them—

sticking with them, not leaving them for a minute." Is 42:16 MSG.

Heavenly Father...You who love us with tender strength...

we acknowledge before you our fears;

we acknowledge before you our anxieties;

we acknowledge before you our doubts.

Help us to recognize in the depths of our hearts that we are not alone;

but that you are truly present in this hour.

Ease our burdens by the assurance of your presence, by the power of your abiding love, and by the hope we share in Jesus Christ, who committed himself to the grave so that we would live now & forever.

We pray in His Name...Amen.

25 PENTECOST '18 B – THE PRESENCE OF JOY: LIVING WITH JOY

A story about 2 boys...Saul & Malen.

Saul was born into a life of privilege...what might seem normal to most of us His mum & dad put him in the best schools with the best teachers. He lived in a nice house with plenty of food & a bed of his own. If he was ever sick they could find the best care available. He was clever & advanced in his chosen profession working both with his hands & his head. He was part of the religious elite too...and that was a place he excelled.

Malen, on the other hand, understands hunger. His mother goes to the local rubbish tip 3X every day to collect stuff others have thrown out. She washes it in the cleanest water she can find...& there isn't always a lot of that...then she sells it if she can to earn money to buy food. Malen likes soccer & he is trying to learn to read & write, but school where he lives in Jakarta, Indonesia is expensive...and his family doesn't have a lot of money.

They seem like very different boys...Saul & Malen...but they aren't so much really. Because they both have met Jesus...and that relationship changes lives.

Saul was embraced by Jesus & he became Paul. A deeply devoted incredibly bold sharer of God's love. He lived & died telling people about Jesus...death & rez so all could live with the Father forever.

Malen meets Jesus every day in the form of Compassion International & the centre where Compassion workers from the Indonesian Christian community teach school & provide a variety of services...medical care, food assistance, work skills...Bible teaching & the wonderful good news of Jesus who makes all that possible.

Living Water shares that mission with Compassion...so that kids like Malen meet Jesus in very real & very lasting ways. 15 lives are being touched right now because of you & your devotion to sharing Christ with the world. Pam & Gary went to see how that happens...and no one can share that story better than they can...

(Pam takes it from here)

How we bless others in the name of Jesus matters.

It matters when we provide a meal.

It matters when we pray with someone.

It matters when we do some small kindness.

It matters when we partner with others to achieve big things like Compassion does.

It matters when we walk hand-in-hand day by day in dark & difficult times reassuring those with whom we walk that God hears our cries & attends to our hurts.

It matters when we proclaim Christ's victory over sin & death and affirm that assurance over and over again.

It matters when all we do is hold the sorrowing in a loving embrace & remind them

The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help.

He rescues them from all their troubles.

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted;

he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

Psalms 34:17-18

So we press on...Let's pray...

Loving Lord and Heavenly king, we are in the midst of so much right now it is overwhelming. Come now in the fullness of your Spirit to hold our hearts close to yours...to collect our tears as you promise...to provide wisdom and comfort in measure equal to our need knowing things will never be as they were.

As each day passes we trust your healing touch to comfort and sustain in this time of distress and in this time draw us closer to you. Teach us to lean deeper into your arms and deeper into your love which is what lasts forever.

Your presence never fails & your love never gives up. Into your hands we entrust ourselves & the Tait extended family who have such sadness in their hearts. We know the one in whom we trust, and we are sure that you are able to guard what we entrust to you until the day you return and reveal how even this moment brings you glory. We pray Jesus in your power Name...Amen.