

## **JESUS AT THE CENTRE.**

A reading from Colossians 1 v 12-17.

May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father.

He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.

For he had rescued us from the Kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.

He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through Him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth.

He made the things we can see

and the things we can't see-

such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers and authorities in the unseen world.

Everything was created through him, and for him.

He existed before anything else.

and he holds all creation together.

Here we are at the beginning of June.

Time marches on very swiftly it seems to me.

We have just celebrated Pentecost-another very important festival in the Church year.

I love celebration and worship at Pentecost, second only to Easter Day.

One of the main reasons I say that is because I love to sing the hymns and worship songs in Church, usually with great gusto.

Well after all, it is The Birthday of the Church, and the start of the Church's mission into the world.

Plenty to sing about!.

I get a little concerned at the moment, when I think I may well have forgotten how to sing-properly at least!

Yes, I do sing around the house, particularly on Sunday mornings, as I tune into various services on the radio and on line. But I'm singing very quietly, so as not to disturb my neighbours peace.

It does seem a long time since we could all sing together doesn't it?

What a joyful noise we will make I'm sure when we return eventually to our Church services.

As we have thought and been reminded about the Holy Spirit over the last few days, let's centre our thoughts this morning on Jesus.

Jesus at the Centre.

The emphasis of Scripture is always on the centrality of Christ, for although the Father and the Spirit are co-equal and co-eternal, yet they delight to give Jesus Christ the central place.

The fruit of the Spirit in effect, consists of ingredients of the character of Christ, transferred to us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are not growing into the image of the Holy Spirit, or even the Father, but into the image of Jesus Christ.

When Christ is in the centre, He is in His rightful place, for that is the only place He will really fit, whether in the world or the human heart.

Someone once said, that they couldn't give a friend a fruit cocktail because they had no pineapples.

Apparently if pineapple is not put in, the pear will permeate the whole thing, and turn everything into a pear taste.

Pineapple gives its own flavour and in addition brings out the flavour of the other fruits.

Christ is like this.

He adds His own flavour to our lives, and in addition brings out the distinctive flavours of each of the fruit of the Spirit.

We cannot have the fruit of the Spirit, without knowing Christ as our Lord and Saviour, and we cannot know Christ in all His fullness without knowing something of the fruit of the Spirit.

Amen.

A blessing from "A New Zealand Prayer Book"

Christ be within you to keep you,  
beside you to guard,  
before you to lead, behind you to protect,  
beneath you to support,  
above you to bless.

Amen.

Song. Jesus be the Centre.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EG-l1kK-BpU&list=PL37UjspluA2BaVTsIZLaCDEx1pnCdGA91&index=3&t=0s>

Jesus be the Centre

Be my source, be my light. Jesus.

Jesus, be the Centre,

Be my Hope, be My song Jesus.

Be the fire in my heart,

Be the Wind in these sails,

Be the reason that I live

Jesus, Jesus.

Oh, Jesus be my vision

Be my path,

Be my guide, Jesus.

Jesus be the Centre,

Be my Hope, be my song, Jesus.