

of our nets and follow Jesus. We start a journey like Simon, Andrew, James and John did ~ not knowing where we are going but knowing that we have to make the journey.

Today we bring Hugo for Baptism to start the journey that his Mum and Dad think is important enough to start now and not wait.

Who knows how to play "Simon Says" ? Come and show everyone. Do you think that some of the adults can play too? Would you like to ask them "Come and see" or "Follow me"

Play

You know on our journey to know Jesus more it can be a bit like "Simon Says" sometimes we listen and get it right and sometimes we don't! But we have people to help us and as Hugo is Baptised this morning he has Godparents to help him and his mum and dad and they all have the church here at Immanuel and together we will try to get it more right than wrong.

To start the journey we are going to make some promises about what we believe and how we are going to make the journey and we are going to celebrate Hugo beginning the journey by Baptising Him and then each year helping him to learn about this special day in his life. He will have a Certificate and a candle to help and I hope his Godparents will try to do something special on 21st January each year to show him Jesus loves Him. Amen.

Ministry Musings

21st January 2018 ~ 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Abram was blessed by Melchizedek (King of Salem and priest of God most High) ~ after defeating Kedorlaomer.

How did Melchizedek bless him?

With sustenance (a feast of bread and wine) and through words of affirmation and encouragement.

Why?

Because God Most High had delivered the enemies of His people into Abram's hands.

How did Abram respond?

Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything.

Lets bring that into 2018 and make a comparison with ourselves.

You have occasion to defend your (fragile) Christian beliefs and values and expose a great wrong in the community. You make a difference and the wrong is corrected. Your church community congratulate you and celebrate with you giving you support because of what God has been able to achieve through you and it strengthens your faith so that you 'give in thanksgiving' for God's provision.

Or ~

Mary wants to affirm her Son, Jesus. ~ An opportunity presents itself at a wedding celebration and Jesus has to respond to her faith and trust.

The faith in your heart convicts you that nothing is impossible with God ~ however 'messed up' we have let it get! We translate that trust into prayer ~ a conversation with Thanksgiving with God ~ and the outcome is beyond what we expect but always brings God the glory in revealing His love.

So we have cause to praise God **"Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!"**

This week read into your Bible, prayerfully asking the Spirit to reveal what you need to discover in your journey of **'Knowing Jesus ~ Making Him known'**.

Genesis 14:17-20 OT page 11
Revelation 19:6-10 NT page 255
John 2:1-11 NT page 89

Think for a moment about the week just past.
What one thing, however small, however challenging, has made you praise and thank God?
To say ~

“Hallelujah!
For our Lord God Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and be glad
and give him glory!”

As someone who walks in faith there should be something during the week that has made you stop and thank God for His provision.

Even if you think God has not been listening or you have not felt Him very close ~ there is still reason to thank Him that He is walking with you.

You and I are not very good at affirming our love of God or recognising it in the every day.

We can learn from Melchizedek who gives the example of blessing Abram. He used words to affirm that Abram had been walking with God but he also affirmed him, cherished him by providing him with a meal.

Have you had the opportunity to bless someone in the past week or will you recognise and act on the opportunities God gives you in the week ahead?

We are far more inclined to take people and things for granted and then want to overcompensate!

Mary did not want to take Jesus for granted. Everything that she had learnt about Him as his mother made her realise that he had something special to share and do with His life ~ something that would change everything ~ and Mary knew that

others had to recognise it too ~ they had to start asking questions!

Now Jesus might have thought that he was not ready but his Mum wanted to affirm what was special and she trusted that if she took the opportunity in front of her then people would begin that questioning and see what she and Joseph, the shepherds and Magi, Anna and Simeon and a few others, over the years, had already glimpsed. Mary made Jesus known!

Have you had the opportunity to make Jesus known in the past week. Will you be alert to the opportunities God's Spirit will present in the week ahead?

Is your faith so alive that you cannot keep it to yourself but as God blesses you so you in turn have to bless others?

This week make it your prayer that the Spirit kindles the spark of faith in your heart to a flame and that flame lights someone else's path of faith. So that in “Knowing Jesus you can make Him known”
Amen



10.00 am All Age ~ Mark 1: 14-20

We all have to start in faith somewhere. Jesus gathered friends around Him to support His ministry ~ He said 'come and see' and 'follow me' and the disciples did.

Today, you and I are challenged to leave the equivalent