

Sunday 8 Sept 2019, Cashmere Presbyterian Church

Theme: Spring Flower Family Service

Story: Jairus' Daughter's story

Jesus travelled all over Galilee.

It was his job to show the world that God loved all people.

So, in many places Jesus did miracles;

he healed sick people,

he brought hearing to deaf people,

he even raised some people from the dead.

One day a man named Jairus came rushing up to him. He was an important man in the community. Jairus needed help from Jesus:

"Teacher, my daughter is very sick. Please come quickly! Please put your hands on her. I know that if you come she will get well."

Jesus could see the faith that Jairus had, and he cared about the little girl.

So they set off walking to Jairus' house.

A large crowd followed them. In the middle of the crowd was a very sick woman. She was exhausted from being ill for a long time. As Jesus walked passed she reached out and touched his coat. Jesus felt some of God's healing power go out of him.

Jesus asked:

"Who touched me?"

The woman stepped forward.

"It was me" she said.

Jesus smiled. He said to her:

"You have great faith. You are healed. Go in peace."

Then Jesus kept walking towards Jairus' house.

But suddenly some people ran up to them with terrible news.

"Jairus, we are so sorry. Your daughter has died."

Jairus was very upset, but Jesus said to him,

"Don't worry. She is just sleeping. Come on, let's go to her."

Soon they got there, and everyone was crying, but Jesus took Jairus and his wife into the girl's room. He knelt down beside her bed and said

"Little girl, get up!"

And she opened her eyes, saw Jesus and her parents, and she got up. She was alive! She was healed.

Jairus and all his family grew in faith. They had seen for themselves that Jesus was the creator of life, and they believed in him.

Reflection:

Whose words matter to you?

If someone passed you on the street and said something rude to you, would that hurt your feelings? It might, or you might just shrug and say 'what's their problem?' But if someone you really care about says something critical that does hurt our feelings, because it matters to us what people we love think about us. Their words can bring joy or pain.

And we need to be careful how we use words, because our words can hurt other people or build them up. Our words matter.

But most of all, to us, one person's words matter most of all. And that person is Jesus.

We are Christians because we know for ourselves that the words of Jesus are life-giving. When we hear what Jesus said 2000 years ago these words spring to life in our minds and in our hearts, and they seem to be true in a way that is really true, deeply true, true for me, true for you, for all time and for right now.

In our story about the healing miracles, we all read together Jesus' words. Do you remember what he said?

"Little girl, get up"

and to the old lady who had reached out and touched his coat, he said, "You are healed. Go in peace"

As Jesus spoke the words, the power of God flowed and changed the other person in body and in spirit. They became healed, well, forgiven, energized, joyful and peaceful.

Jesus spoke about life, life in all its fullness, and as he spoke people experienced that life for themselves. And we can too.

Let's say together some more of the amazing words of Jesus

Jesus said:

"The words that I have said to you are spirit and life."

(John 6:63)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but may have eternal life." (John 3:16)

"The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." (John 4:14)

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

Today we celebrate Spring, as a time of new life. We can see new life bursting out around us, with baby lambs in the fields, and branches that looked dead swelling with buds which open out into blossom. It's a good time to be reminded that all new life comes from God and that new life in you and in me comes from our friend and saviour Jesus through this living Spirit, through his words.

We have a gift for you this morning, something to keep on reminding you that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life
some things which look on the outside kind of dead, but if they are planted in the ground will grow into a whole new plant.

Can you think what might be inside?

... bulb

... potato

It's all about how we hear, how we nurture the words of Jesus which bring life.

A bulb needs water. Our minds need to read the Bible

A potato needs warmth. Our souls need to be still and pray.

Our hearts need to practice giving away love every day.