



| Monday, December 23

We Are a New Creation

*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away; see, everything has become
new!*

2 Corinthians 5:17

Paul uses the expression “in Christ” over and over again. To be truly Christian is to be “in Christ.”

But what does it mean to be “in Christ?” Most simply put, to be “in Christ” is to be so intimately related to Christ through faith that it might be said that we are “in Christ” and that “Christ is in us.” As Paul wrote in Galatians, “It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (2:20). Now that indeed is a new creation.

When we are intimately related to Christ through faith, we are a new creation; we have a new vision of what it means to be truly human—a vision grounded in love and justice, in kindness and gentleness, in forgiveness and mercy, in generosity and openness to others. When we are intimately related to Christ through faith, new possibilities for living creatively, for living joyfully, for living gratefully, for living purposefully open before us. All of which is to say—As Paul did—when we are in Christ, the Spirit of Christ gradually transforms us into the likeness of Christ (2 Corinthian 3:18). That indeed is a new creation.”

But that’s not all. To be “in Christ” is to part of a community of faith where all are welcome.” Again, quoting from Paul: “As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:27-28). That too is a new creation—a community of faith where all are welcome. That, of course, is what we aspire to be at First Lutheran.

*Thank you loving God for joining us to Christ and joining us to a
community of faith where all are welcome. Amen.*

- Pastor Hank French