

Living Water Fellowship

4TH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST

28TH JUNE 2020

COME TO JESUS

WELCOME:

PRAYER OF THE DAY: (by Cornelius Plantinga Jr)

Gracious God, Champion of the Universe, we so often puff ourselves up. Aren't we the only creatures who compose masterpieces of music & art? Don't we govern ourselves, enrich ourselves, promote ourselves? Can't we dunk basketballs, bat baseballs, spike volleyballs? Aren't some of us masters of comic irony? Other creatures don't practice rocket science. We do.

And yet. Here we are, frightened by a thing so small it can't be seen under most microscopes. It's not even an animal or a plant. It's a virus, a mere parasite, dependent on our own living cells to replicate. Yet it has shuttered our schools, cancelled our flights, & emptied our churches. It has consumed the attention of our leading scientists, wrenched our politics out of shape, dominated our conversations, & scared the daylights out of us. We don't want to get sick. And we don't want to die. We are afraid, O God. Afraid of a microorganism. Afraid of each other.

Great & quiet source of peace, quiet our fears. We are wary, uncertain, strung tight. Quiet our fears. We have no idea what the future will bring, but we do know you will be in our future to hold us there. We cannot quiet ourselves, O God. We cannot comfort ourselves, cannot heal ourselves, cannot help ourselves. All we can do is wash our hands & keep our distance. Our rocket science is no good to us for this threat.

O God, great & quiet source of peace, quiet us, your anxious ones, & let us cling for comfort to your suffering Son, Jesus Christ. Gather us under his wings. Remind us that he suffers with us, but he's also the great physician. In him, let us not be afraid. Please, let us not be afraid. Amen.

SONG: *Rest My Soul*

[Verse 1]

Rise, my soul arise
God's in control; You're not alone
Rise into His light
His plans are good You're on His side

[Chorus 1]

God of perfect peace You are here with me
On this raging sea It's true
You won't let me go You're my joy, my hope
I will rest my soul in You

[Verse 2]

Sing, my soul now sing
For He is strong and you are weak
Yes, sing with everything
your Saviour's praise wave after wave

[Chorus 2]

God of perfect peace You are here with me
On this raging sea It's true
You won't let me go You're my joy, my hope
I will rest my soul in You...I will rest my soul in You

[Bridge]

I will call upon Your name
You're above my circumstance
All my life is in Your hands
I will call upon Your name
You're above my circumstance
All my life is in Your hands

I will call upon Your name
You're above my circumstance
All my life is in Your hands

I will call upon Your name
You're above my circumstance
All my life is in Your hands

O-O-Oh God of perfect peace You are here with me
On this raging sea, It's true
You won't let me go You're my joy, my hope
I will rest my soul in you...I will rest my soul in you.

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GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Ruth 3:1-18

FAITH CHAT:

1. Describe a time when someone did you a favour that you could never repay.
2. In your current circumstances, in what part of your life has God been teaching you to risk more?
3. How willing are you to lay everything in your life at the feet of Jesus who is willing to redeem you? What holds you back?

THE MESSAGE: RUTH: THE SWEETNESS OF REDEMPTION – FROM BITTERNESS TO BLESSING

PRAYERS:

(Individuals are encouraged to pray for one another in their households & to include prayers for the wider Living Water family, the Wagga Wagga community, our nation and the world's leaders in this time of isolation due to virus containment)

(Individual households may also choose to celebrate Holy Communion after the online service concludes.

Please feel free to do so. If you know the Words of Institution you simply say them as you would hear them in worship. If you aren't sure, then read aloud together Paul's recount of the celebration in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. Then share the forgiveness, life and salvation Christ offers in his body and blood. The words "The body of Christ given for you" and "The blood of Christ shed for you" and appropriate elements are to be used as you celebrate together.)

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now & forever. Amen.

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING:

**† _____, child of God, Christ has redeemed you!
Amen.**

SONG: 10,000 Reasons

[Chorus]

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul.
I'll worship Your holy name.

[Verse 1]

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

[Chorus]

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul.
I'll worship Your holy name.

[Verse 2]

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

[Chorus]

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul.
I'll worship Your holy name.

[Verse 3]

And on that day when my strength is failing,
The end draws near, and my time has come;
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending:
Ten thousand years and then forevermore!

[Chorus to end]

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul.
I'll worship Your holy name.
Yes, I'll worship Your holy name.
Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.

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SHOW HIS LOVE

RUTH 3:1-18

One day Naomi said to Ruth, "My daughter, it's time I found a permanent home for you, so you will be provided for. Boaz is a close relative of ours, & he's been very kind by letting you gather grain with his young women. Tonight he will be winnowing barley at the threshing floor. Now do as I tell you—take a bath & put on perfume & dress in your nicest clothes. Then go to the threshing floor, but don't let Boaz see you until he has finished eating & drinking. Be sure to notice where he lies down; then go & uncover his feet & lie down there. He will tell you what to do."

"I will do everything you say," Ruth replied. So she went down to the threshing floor that night & followed the instructions of her mother-in-law.

After Boaz had finished eating & drinking & was in good spirits, he lay down at the far end of the pile of grain & went to sleep. Then Ruth came quietly, uncovered his feet, & lay down. Around midnight Boaz suddenly woke up & turned over. He was surprised to find a woman lying at his feet! "Who are you?" he asked.

"I am your servant Ruth," she replied. "Spread the corner of your covering over me, for you are my family redeemer."

"The Lord bless you, my daughter!" Boaz exclaimed. "You are showing even more family loyalty now than you did before, for you have not gone after a younger man, whether rich or poor. Now don't worry about a thing, my daughter. I will do what is necessary, for everyone in town knows you are a virtuous woman. But while it's true that I am one of your family redeemers, there is another man who is more closely related to you than I am. Stay here tonight, & in the morning I will talk to him. If he is willing to redeem you, very well. Let him marry you. But if he is not willing, then as surely as the Lord lives, I will redeem you myself! Now lie down here until morning."

So Ruth lay at Boaz's feet until the morning, but she got up before it was light enough for people to recognize each other. For Boaz had said, "No one must know that a woman was here at the threshing floor." Then Boaz said to her, "Bring your cloak & spread it out." He measured six scoops of barley into the cloak & placed it on her back. Then he returned to the town.

When Ruth went back to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, "What happened, my daughter?" Ruth told Naomi everything Boaz had done for her, & she added, "He gave me these six scoops of barley & said, 'Don't go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.'" Then Naomi said to her, "Just be patient, my daughter, until we hear what happens. The man won't rest until he has settled things today."

Group Bible Study:

1. Read Ruth 3:1-18 again. What do you notice about Naomi's attitude? She is now concerned for Ruth's future. Up to this point, when Naomi thinks only of herself, what does she think? What's different now? What has helped this transformation occur?
2. What does Naomi call Ruth? What does she call Boaz in vs 2? Is that consistent with how Naomi now feels toward Ruth?
3. What do you make of Naomi's instructions to Ruth? Ruth's response is unquestioned obedience. Do you find that odd or completely normal? Why? What does this tell you about Ruth's character?
4. How do you know when grief is over? Is it ever over? Or is it "over enough" the day you begin to believe that God could really have more in store for you than tears & memories, struggle & loneliness?
5. Is the Lord asking you to throw off some old garments? Maybe not mourning, but anger, bitterness, or jealousy? Read Hebrews 12:1 and Philippians 3:12-14. What does Paul tell us to do? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you anything you're holding on to that's keeping you from experiencing God's abundant blessing of new life.
6. Why do you think Boaz was sleeping on the threshing floor? What does it suggest that Ruth is at his feet? When Boaz wakes up, what does Ruth say? Read Luke 10:38-42. Compare these two accounts of women at a man's feet. What is Ruth actually saying to Boaz? Mary to Jesus? How often do you sit at Christ's feet?
7. The Hebrew word 'Hesed' (steadfast or unfailing kindness, loyalty, faithfulness, goodness mercy, love & compassion) abounds throughout this chapter.
 - a. List some examples.
 - b. How have you experienced this steadfast kindness in your relationships with God & his people?
 - c. When have you offered it to someone else particularly someone not yet in the Kingdom?
8. Boaz is a Family/Kinsman-Redeemer. He foreshadows the greatest Kinsman-Redeemer of all, Jesus. At the end of worship Pastor John left a list of Bible texts for us to read through together. Let's look at those & ask ourselves:
 - a. What does this tell me about my worth & value to the Father?
 - b. How do I see Jesus in Boaz? Are there other places in the Old Testament where Jesus is clearly shown to me like this?
 - c. What else is God teaching me in this series of sermons and Scripture readings? Who can I share this with? What else would I like to learn?

1st...Jesus is related to those he seeks to redeem: **Hebrews 2:14-15, 17**

2nd...Jesus is able to pay the cost of our redemption: **1 Peter 1:18-20 -- Revelation 5:9 -- Ephesians 1:4-7**

3rd...only Jesus is willing to do what is required to redeem you **AND** He has done it:

Galatians 3:13 --John 10:11-15, 18

I'll also leave you with 4 others as a foretaste of that blessing that never ends. Hear them as your assurance/certainty
For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you & not to harm you, plans to give you hope & a future. Then you will call on me & come & pray to me, & I will listen to you. You will seek me & find me when you seek me with all your heart. – Jeremiah 29:11-13

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. – 2 Peter 3:9

I have swept away your sins like a cloud. I have scattered your offenses like the morning mist. Oh, return to me, for I have paid the price to set you free. – Isaiah 44:22

"With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—Jesus Christ entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever." – Hebrews 9:12