

Living Water Fellowship

8TH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST

26TH JULY 2020

COME TO JESUS

WELCOME:

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God of saving love & hope, you made the world & sustain all creation. Yet your world feels strange right now. The news is full of stories about this contagion. Many are anxious because of it. Many are anxious that they might become ill. Many are anxious about family & friends; their jobs & their security. Many are anxious because they have been told to be anxious by the media or government. But you say; "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer & petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." So we bring our worries trusting you for help & peace. Thank you that even in these strange times, you are with us. Help us to look for & be the signs of your goodness & love in this world. Keep our hearts overflowing with your presence & power; through Jesus Christ, our Lord...Amen.

BIBLE READING: Acts 2:42-47

SONG: Give us Hearts to know You Lord

[Verse 1]

Give us hearts to know you, Lord,
to know who you are.
We will be your people,
and you our God,
and you our God.

[Verse 2]

Give us hearts to love you, Lord,
to love who you are.
We will be your people,
and you our God,
and you our God.

[Verse 3]

Give us hearts to bless you, Lord,
to bless who you are.
We will be your people,
and you our God,
and you our God.

[Verse 4]

Give us hearts to serve you, Lord,
to serve who you are.
We will be your people,
and you our God,
and you our God.

[Verse 5]

Give us hearts to praise you, Lord,
to praise who you are.
We will be your people,
and you our God,
and you our God.

[Verse 6]

Give us hearts to worship, Lord,
to worship who you are.
We will be your people,
and you our God,
and you our God.

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GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: John 13:31-35

FAITH CHAT:

1. Share a time when you needed a group of people to help you _____ do something/get you out of a jam...etc.
2. With what do you think churches today struggle most? Why that?
3. If the church could do one thing in Wagga Wagga (your city) right now...What would that be?

THE MESSAGE: FAITH FORMED RELATIONSHIPS

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, the Father claims you for his family!
Amen.**

SONG: *Hear our Praises*

[Verse 1]

*May our homes be filled with dancing,
May our streets be filled with joy;
May injustice bow to Jesus.
As the people turn to pray.*

[Chorus]

*From the mountain to the valley
Hear our praises rise to you;
From the heavens to the nations,
Hear our singing fill the air.*

[Verse 2]

*May a light shine in the darkness,
As we walk before the Cross;
May your glory fill the whole earth.
As the water o'er the seas.*

[Chorus]

*From the mountain to the valley
Hear our praises rise to you;
From the heavens to the nations,
Hear our singing fill the air.*

[Bridge]

*Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

[Chorus 2x to end]

*From the mountain to the valley
Hear our praises rise to you;
From the heavens to the nations,
Hear our singing fill the air.*

*From the mountain to the valley
Hear our praises rise to you;
From the heavens to the nations,
Hear our singing fill the air.*

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SHOW HIS LOVE

ACTS 2:42-47

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity — all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

JOHN 13:31-35

As soon as Judas left the room, Jesus said, "The time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory, and God will be glorified because of him. And since God receives glory because of the Son, he will give his own glory to the Son, and he will do so at once. Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can't come where I am going. So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Acts 2:42-47 & John 13:31-35. What questions immediately come to mind for you?
2. Quickly glance over John 13...especially what precedes vs 31-35. What is happening here? Why are these instructions from Jesus so critical at this point in his ministry? Why do you think he waited until Judas left the room to offer this command?
3. Respond to each of the following statements: T/F – Why? Have you ever experienced that?
 - a. Jesus' primary ministry was in community
 - b. We know God most deeply in the gathered church
 - c. We experience transformation most completely in the church community
 - d. We witness to the world most effectively through the church
 - e. "Where God builds a church the devil builds a chapel." -- Martin Luther
4. How can a friendship be an incubator for faith & a glimpse of God's grace? Has a friend ever held you accountable for less-than-Christ-like behaviour? How did you respond? Was it helpful? Have you ever shared your faith with a not-yet-Christian friend? What was that like?
5. Why did Jesus gather a small group (prototype church) for his ministry? According to Acts, what was the atmosphere of that community once Jesus had risen & ascended & sent the Spirit in his place? Did the disciples, or the early church community, always "get it right," or do you think they failed to understand or to live out the way of Jesus effectively?
6. Read Acts 2:41 & continue to 42-47. What does this suggest to you? Have you ever been part of a faith community like that? What do you think that would be like?
7. Read Ephesians 4:17-32. How is transformation in the church accomplished in love rather than in threat/fear?
8. Why is the average congregation today not like that early experience of Christian community? What aspect of that early church would you most like to see reignited in your congregation?