

Living Water Fellowship

11TH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST

16TH AUGUST 2020

COME TO JESUS

WELCOME:

PRAYER OF THE DAY: PSALM 84 (NLT)

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of Heaven's Armies. I long, yes, I faint with longing to enter the courts of the Lord. With my whole being, body and soul, I will shout joyfully to the living God. What joy for those who can live in your house, always singing your praises. A single day in your courts is better than a thousand anywhere else! For the Lord God is our sun and our shield. He gives us grace and glory. The Lord will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right. O Lord of Heaven's Armies, what joy for those who trust in you...through Jesus Christ, our Lord... Amen.

BIBLE READING: Colossians 3:16-17 & 23-24

SONG: *Let's Praise the Lord*

(On-Line worship – Goodness of God - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-f4MUUMWMV4>)

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Luke 21:1-4

FAITH CHAT:

1. Who is a person you consider generous? What sets them apart from others?
With what are they generous? (time, listening, \$\$, help...)
2. How is someone's generosity a reflection of their faith?

THE MESSAGE: FAITH FORMED GENEROSITY

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Elwood Ross Heffernan

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.)

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,
May the generosity of God's grace in Christ
make your heart overflow in abundant grace to others. Amen.**

SONG: *I Am Carried*

(On-Line worship – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCCfd7EnHsA>)

SHOW HIS LOVE

LUKE 21:1-4

While Jesus was in the Temple, he watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins.

“I tell you the truth,” Jesus said, “this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has.”

COLOSSIANS 3:16-17 & 23-24

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Luke 21:1-4 & Colossians 3:16-24. What questions immediately come to mind for you?
2. How does Col 3:1 set the stage for everything that follows? How do 3:1 & 3:16 tie together? What are some ways you might fulfill both of Paul's admonitions here?
3. Giving thanks is mentioned three times in verses 15-17. How does thankfulness connect to the exhortations around it? How do you maintain an attitude of thankfulness? Does thankfulness help you in being generous? How? Is generosity possible without first being thankful? Why/Why not?
4. How does engaging in Scripture together encourage our growth, strengthen our fellowship & create Christlike generosity among us? Col. 3:16 says, let the word/message of Christ dwell in you richly so that you speak it to others. What is one verse you can memorize to help create a “gospel reservoir” that can easily be shared with others?
5. Which words are emphasized, repeated, or connected in vss 18-24? What key ideas emerge here? What are some of the roles (husband, wife, parent, child, roommate, friend, employee, boss, etc.) you live out right now? How hard is it for you to carry out those roles under the lordship of Jesus? Why are some roles & relationships easier to submit to Jesus than others?
6. Read Col. 3:13; 4:1; Eph. 5:25-28; Matt. 18:23-35. How does our relationship with Christ & acknowledging how He has treated us help us to have the right heart in our roles & relationships?
7. How do vss 23 & 24 encapsulate the main theme of chapter 3 begun in vss 1-4? How does this final reminder of our identity in Christ, security through Christ & our destiny with Christ create a willing heart for generous self-giving love lived out in our daily lives?
8. It's been said that generosity is a “dense” act; in that it is an act of faith, an act of love, an act of obedience, and an act that trains us to live from our heavenly abundance rather than from our perceived earthly scarcity. Talk about how the widow in Lk 21:1-4 gives evidence that that is true. Share with those around you how your generosity also fulfills those purposes in you.
9. Do you give like the widow? If not, what would help you get there?

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

P: Holy Baptism is God's gift to us. In this Sacrament God brings us into the body of Christ - the church - and makes us part of the family of God. God takes water and adds to it the power of His Word. Baptism is a rebirth, a new life in Christ. Let us read the words of Jesus together:

All: *...I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die...*(John 11:25)

...I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. (John 3:5)

...Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matt. 28:19-20)

P: Today you are responding to the command of Jesus and the love of God. Baptism is a beautiful gift of God's grace and we rejoice with you on this special day. I ask you: Will you faithfully bring this child to worship; teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creeds, and the Ten Commandments; place in his hands the Holy Scriptures; and provide for his instruction and nurture in the Christian faith? If so, say "we will."

Baptismal Party:

We will!

P: Do you renounce the forces of evil, the devil, and the world's empty promises? If so answer, "We do."

Baptismal Party:

We do!

P: I ask all worshipping today, Do you believe in God the Father?

C: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, & sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

P: Baptism is not water only, but it is water used together with God's word and by God's command. God rescues us through this washing and cleansing which gives us new birth and life. Please present this child for Baptism.

Baptismal Party:

We present **Elwood Ross Heffernan** to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

P: **Elwood Ross Heffernan**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, & of the Son, & of the Holy Spirit. Amen. **Elwood** child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Receive this lighted candle. The candle is a symbol that Christ is the light of the world and you are to let the light of Christ shine brightly in your home always. You who are sponsors for **Elwood** are making a commitment to surround him with your love and prayers and do all you can to help **Peter & Rebecca** nurture him in the Christian Faith. Will you pray for him, love him, teach him the word of God and stand with him in joy and sorrow? If so say, "Yes with the help of God."

Sponsors:

Yes, with the help of God.

P: *(to the congregation)* Today we receive **Elwood** as a child of God to be part of our Christian community.

C: **Praise God for the gift of new life. We welcome you into our family of faith. We promise to pray for you & show our love for you in the years to come.**

P: Let us pray. God, you make light to shine in darkness. You cause new life to spring out of old. We are thankful that you accept **Elwood** as your own. We are grateful for the gift of grace, which accepts us as we are. May **he** grow in faith and always know he is a part of your family & you are his loving God. May each of us know the joy of abundant life in Christ & remember this special day when water joined the Word and changed life forever. **Amen.**