

# Living Water Fellowship

12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN PENTECOST

23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2020

COME TO JESUS

## WELCOME:

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

*Living God, in your presence there is fullness of life and love. Draw us deeper into the life of your Son that the fullness of his love may flow out of our lives to others. Draw us deeper into him and out of the fear that surrounds us or the doubts that crowd in. Draw us deeper into Christ and freedom in his life. Lead us out of our self-imposed shackles or the bondage imposed by the world. Use us as agents of your Kingdom of grace through Jesus Christ who gave his life so all could be redeemed. Amen.*

**BIBLE READING:** Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

**SONG:** Shout to the Lord

(On-line Worship VIDEO – [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=-UMEUHXFTIQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UMEUHXFTIQ))

## GROW IN HIS GRACE

**BIBLE READING:** Lamentations 3:19-33

### FAITH CHAT:

1. When life gets hard, what's your reflexive response? Why do you think that is?
2. When you need a minute's peace or a reprieve from life's burdens, what do you do?

**THE MESSAGE:** NEW TERRAIN: THRIVING IN LIFE'S CHANGES – THRIVING IN GRIEF & LOSS

### 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,  
Christ risen & alive in you is all your hope & joy! Amen.**

**SONG:** His Love Within the World (AT 482)

(On-line Worship VIDEO – DEATH WAS ARRESTED - [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=UMSMILUCUUI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMsMiluCUUI))

## SHOW HIS LOVE

### **ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8**

For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.  
A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest.  
A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up.  
A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance.  
A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. A time to embrace and a time to turn away.  
A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time to keep and a time to throw away.  
A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak.  
A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace.

### **LAMENTATIONS 3:19-23**

The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words. I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!" The Lord is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him.

So it is good to wait quietly for salvation from the Lord. And it is good for people to submit at an early age to the yoke of his discipline: Let them sit alone in silence beneath the Lord's demands. Let them lie face down in the dust, for there may be hope at last. Let them turn the other cheek to those who strike them and accept the insults of their enemies. For no one is abandoned by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he also shows compassion because of the greatness of his unfailing love. For he does not enjoy hurting people or causing them sorrow.

### **Group Bible Study/Discussion:**

1. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 & Lamentations 3:19-33. What questions come to mind for you?
2. In the Bible, the "laments" are defined as passionate expressions of grief or sorrow often asking God for help. Is there something today over which you are currently lamenting? How are you seeking God's assistance or deliverance?
3. Think of a time in your past when you experienced severe crisis, trouble or affliction? How did you respond? Was that response helpful/not helpful? If a similar circumstance arose today, would you respond differently? Why/Why not?
4. Jeremiah writes from the experience of God wrath/judgment on God's people? Read through all of Lamentations 3 to find images depicting the effects of God's wrath (focus on the verbs)? Why is God's discipline good for us? Read 2 Timothy 3:16. How does God's Word discipline us? Note also 1 Timothy 4:8 & 1 Corinthians 9:27. How do you engage in that discipline?
5. Can you think of a time when God allowed your life to be disoriented? If you are on the other side of this experience, can you see more clearly now how God was working in your life? How so?
6. When the bottom falls out in life & hope seems lost, is there some truth to cling to in your heart? Are there passages of Scripture that you call to mind to reorient yourself?
7. Note the contrast between verses 16-18 & verses 21-24. What has happened in Jeremiah's heart? How do you avoid self-pity & wallowing in despair? On the other hand, How do you avoid being emotionless, stoic & cold when life turns difficult?
8. How does Jeremiah reflect on the character of God both in punishing his people's unfaithfulness & rebellion, and in continuing to pour out his love & mercy upon them? How have you experienced that in your own life?
9. What does it mean that the Lord is your "inheritance?" How is that a cause for hope?
10. Read 3:55-58. How does Jeremiah continue to express confidence in God's redeeming strength? How do you see a foreshadowing of the gospel in these verses?