

# Living Water Fellowship

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

30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020

COME TO JESUS

## WELCOME:

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God of our salvation Pour out your Spirit upon us as we gather, so your grace might strengthen us -- so your peace might calm our troubled souls -- so your hope might mend our broken hearts. You poured out your life that we might be filled with the gift of salvation. You humbled yourself that we might be raised to eternal life. Take hold of our hands, so that we might sing your praises with all creation & tell the world of your great love. In Jesus' name...Amen.

**SONG:** Your Love Surrounds Me (LHS 878)

(On-Line worship – Christ is Mine Forevermore - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roQovDZeAWE>)

## GROW IN HIS GRACE

**BIBLE READING:** Deuteronomy 11:8-21

### FAITH CHAT:

1. With what do you think families today struggle most? Why that?
2. If you could nurture a child's "ambition" toward something...what would be your goal?
3. What would you say is your family "motto"? Vision? We stand for "this"?

**BIBLE READING:** Joshua 24:1-15

**THE MESSAGE:** NEW TERRAIN: THRIVING IN LIFE'S CHANGES – THRIVING WHEN FAMILIES CHANGE

## The Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Tanner Ronald Clark

### 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 Christ in you bless and reach  
the next generation with the good news of his salvation. Amen.**

**SONG:** Grace

(On-Line worship – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lgx7cCK29yM>)

## SHOW HIS LOVE

# 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 **Tanner Ronald Clark** to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

**P:** **Tanner Ronald Clark**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, & of the Son, & of the Holy Spirit. Amen. **Tanner** 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 **Tanner** are making a commitment to surround him with your love and prayers and do all you can to help **Daniel & Nicole** 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 **Tanner** 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 **Tanner** 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.**

## **DEUTERONOMY 11:8-21**

“Therefore, be careful to obey every command I am giving you today, so you may have strength to go in & take over the land you are about to enter. If you obey, you will enjoy a long life in the land the Lord swore to give to your ancestors & to you, their descendants—a land flowing with milk & honey! For the land you are about to enter & take over is not like the land of Egypt from which you came, where you planted your seed & made irrigation ditches with your foot as in a vegetable garden. Rather, the land you will soon take over is a land of hills & valleys with plenty of rain — a land that the Lord your God cares for. He watches over it through each season of the year!

“If you carefully obey the commands I am giving you today, & if you love the Lord your God & serve him with all your heart & soul, then he will send the rains in their proper seasons—the early & late rains—so you can bring in your harvests of grain, new wine, & olive oil. He will give you lush pastureland for your livestock, & you yourselves will have all you want to eat.

“But be careful. Don’t let your heart be deceived so that you turn away from the Lord & serve & worship other gods. If you do, the Lord’s anger will burn against you. He will shut up the sky & hold back the rain, & the ground will fail to produce its harvests. Then you will quickly die in that good land the Lord is giving you.

“So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands & wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home & when you are on the road, when you are going to bed & when you are getting up. Write them on the doorposts of your house & on your gates, so that as long as the sky remains above the earth, you & your children may flourish in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors.

## **JOSHUA 24:1-15**

Joshua summoned all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, including their elders, leaders, judges, & officers. So they came & presented themselves to God. Joshua said to the people, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Long ago your ancestors, including Terah, the father of Abraham & Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River, & they worshiped other gods. But I took your ancestor Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates & led him into the land of Canaan. I gave him many descendants through his son Isaac. To Isaac I gave Jacob & Esau. To Esau I gave the mountains of Seir, while Jacob & his children went down into Egypt.

“Then I sent Moses & Aaron, & I brought terrible plagues on Egypt; & afterward I brought you out as a free people. But when your ancestors arrived at the Red Sea, the Egyptians chased after you with chariots & charioteers. When your ancestors cried out to the Lord, I put darkness between you & the Egyptians. I brought the sea crashing down on the Egyptians, drowning them. With your very own eyes you saw what I did. Then you lived in the wilderness for many years. “Finally, I brought you into the land of the Amorites on the east side of the Jordan. They fought against you, but I destroyed them before you. I gave you victory over them, & you took possession of their land. Then Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, started a war against Israel. He summoned Balaam son of Beor to curse you, but I would not listen to him. Instead, I made Balaam bless you, & so I rescued you from Balak.

“When you crossed the Jordan River & came to Jericho, the men of Jericho fought against you, as did the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, & the Jebusites. But I gave you victory over them. I sent terror ahead of you to drive out the two kings of the Amorites. It was not your swords or bows that brought you victory. I gave you land you had not worked on, & I gave you towns you did not build—the towns where you are now living. I gave you vineyards & olive groves for food, though you did not plant them.

“So fear the Lord & serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River & in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone. But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me & my family, we will serve the Lord.”

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

1. Read Deuteronomy 11:8-21 & Joshua 24:1-15. What questions immediately come to mind for you?
2. How does Deuteronomy 11:1 set the stage for the verses that follow? What is critical to the survival of God's people in the land they are about to inhabit?
3. How is the Promised Land different from Egypt? Why does that matter? What do you think that means for you now in Wagga Wagga?
4. Why might there be an on-going temptation to worship other gods in their new situation? How is that to be prevented? How do you keep your heart centered on what God has done for you in Jesus Christ? How does that guard against temptation? Why does a memory of God's past gracious love for you act as God's protection in the present? As hope for the future?
5. Moses and Joshua are leading God's people toward military triumph and territorial conquest. What sorts of victories does Christ work in us to win? How are those victories already yours? Which ones are still to be won?
6. Read to the end of chapter 11. Why do you believe Moses was so emphatic and repetitive about his warnings of disobedience & the distinction between blessing & curse? (vs. 26-28)
7. Joshua & Moses are both speaking to God's people at the end of their lives. When you draw toward your life's end, what would you say to your descendants to encourage their faith in Jesus? Can you say that now?
8. Compare Joshua 24:14-15 & Deut 11:1. What do Joshua & Moses know about God's people? What does that say about followers of Jesus today? Are we all that different from them? How are we enabled to remain faithful perhaps in a way they were not? How does that help you?
9. How does Joshua lead by example? In considering your answer...note his recollection of God's action on His people's behalf, his recall of God's faithfulness to his covenant, and Joshua's pledge.
10. Could you make a list of times, events, or seasons when God was especially active on your behalf in your life? Have you shared those with your children? Have you shared those with someone as a way of encouraging them to make a faith commitment like yours?
11. Read 24:16-24. How do the people respond? What does Joshua say to them? Why does he sound skeptical? What do you know eventually about their faith commitment?
12. Given God's pledge to you through Jesus Christ, and his living through you by the Holy Spirit, what are you going to do today to affirm your commitment & responsiveness to God? How are you going to ensure that others are invited to join you?