

Living Water Fellowship

15TH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST

13TH SEPTEMBER 2020

COME TO JESUS

WELCOME:

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God of grace & glory, come & be known to us in our gathering. Be present in our songs & prayers. From the busy & confusing places of life receive us & revive us. Surround us with your love, fill us with your peace, & move us by your Spirit. In all we do, from this point into this week, give us strength & courage to share our trust in you in real ways in real life to the real people all around us. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord...Amen.

SONG: *I am Carried* (PW 835)

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

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: 2 Timothy 4:1-8

FAITH CHAT:

1. When do you feel most “on your own/alone?”
2. When has God been especially present to you in a recent “alone” time?
3. What is one thing you can offer someone who is in a time of feeling “on your own/alone?”

BIBLE READING: Isaiah 43:1-3a & 18-21

THE MESSAGE: *NEW TERRAIN: THRIVING IN LIFE'S CHANGES – THRIVING WHEN YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN*

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 power of Christ in you
produce faith that endures.
Amen.**

SONG: *All Glory Be To Christ*

(On-Line worship – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6P2R9aTAPl>)

SHOW HIS LOVE

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8

I solemnly urge you in the presence of God & Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living & the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favourable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, & encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound & wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires & will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth & chase after myths.

But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, & fully carry out the ministry God has given you.

As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, & I have remained faithful. Now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

ISAIAH 43:1-3A & 18-21

But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour...

"But forget all that — it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland. The wild animals in the fields will thank me, the jackals & owls, too, for giving them water in the desert. Yes, I will make rivers in the dry wasteland so my chosen people can be refreshed. I have made Israel for myself, & they will someday honour me before the whole world.

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read 2 Timothy 4 & Isaiah 43. (The larger sections of both texts provides some context for today's study) What questions immediately come to mind for you?
2. What does Is 43 show us about the character of God? God uses very personal words in this passage to describe the relationship He has with His people. How does such a personal relationship with God impact you? Note Is 43:1 & 43:5. Why do you think the command is repeated? Why is this the most repeated command in the Bible? How does fear effect your life & the lives of folks you know?
3. Why would God's action in the past, during a time of great challenge & transition, help the people to trust in Him more fully as they face times of challenge & transition in the future? Describe a past experience where God helped you in a significant way. How does that past action of God help you to trust Him more as you go into the future?
4. In vss 18-19, God says, "*But forget all that—it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new...*" What can happen to our faith, vitality of spirit & direction in life when we dwell in the past? How is *dwelling in the past* different from *drawing on the past* to face the future with confidence?
5. Why do you think Paul speaks as a command in 2 Tim 4:1-2? Why does he have to talk about being ready when it's inconvenient & when it is convenient? What obstacle do you think Paul is addressing? How do these verses speak to you in particular?
6. If you were asked to "preach the Word" at this moment, what would you say? Do you have a favorite message that you would always be ready to share? Why would people prefer "ear-tickling teaching" to "sound teaching"? Can you think of some current examples?
7. How do you see today's world as an urgent place of sharing the Gospel? Where do you think that urgency greatest or the need for the gospel is deepest?
8. What does Paul mean when he says he is "already being poured out as an offering to God"? When your life reaches that point, what do you want to have left behind?