

Living Water Fellowship

1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

29TH NOVEMBER 2020

COME TO JESUS

WELCOME:

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.

SONG: Our God

(On-Line worship - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01Yj7H-eSjM>)

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING:

Mark 1:1-8

FAITH CHAT:

1. What do your Christmas preparations include? Are any different this year?
2. What does "repentance" mean?

THE MESSAGE:

CHRISTMAS IS MORE THAN...A STORY

PRAYERS:

The Communion: *(on-site)*

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 and forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion:

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING:

*(Name), † child of God,
Christ came for you!
Amen*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: *Jesus Strong & Kind*

On-Line worship – (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5Y8s-Sz_ac&list=RDT5Y8s-Sz_ac&start_radio=1)

SHOW HIS LOVE

MARK 1:1-8

This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. It began ² just as the prophet Isaiah had written:

“Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
and he will prepare your way.

³ He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming!
Clear the road for him!’”

⁴ This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. ⁵ All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. ⁶ His clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷ John announced: “Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!”

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Mark 1:1-8. What questions immediately come to mind? Does your familiarity with these verses hinder you seeing it with fresh eyes?
2. What is the “Good News”? Why does Mark pile up the titles of Jesus in just the first verse? What does Mark indicate he believes & wants you also to believe?
3. Mark begins with a reference to the prophecy from Isaiah about John the Baptist? If this is true about John, what then must be true about the one who comes after John? Remember, that for 400 years Israel had not had a prophet. What do you think were reactions of the people on hearing these words? What is the role of a prophet?
4. What is the difference between following the way of Jesus as opposed to adhering to a set of beliefs? How are we to conduct our daily lives in order to follow the way of Jesus? What are the challenges we encounter as we attempt to follow the way?
5. Why did John preach in the country as opposed to the city? What do his clothes reveal beyond an odd fashion sense? How did the people respond to John’s ministry?
6. What did John say of himself when he compared himself to Jesus? What was John’s mission? What do you imagine it might have been like to see and hear John speak? A striking feature about John was his humility. Note how John describes the necessary trajectory of his life/ministry (John 3:26-30). What does this reveal about John & Jesus?
7. If Mark was writing to a group of Christians who were facing persecution for what and in whom they believed, what do you expect is critical for Mark to share in his gospel?
8. In the next year, we’ll hear much of Mark’s gospel. What will you be particularly listening for as we work through Mark’s witness to Jesus? How do you think you will incorporate his witness into your own?