

Living Water Fellowship

10th Sunday after Pentecost

1st August 2021

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION REVIVAL ANTHEM (REND COLLECTIVE) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mheM17ZRWM>

SONG: *Rest my soul* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgOwUhlw3Mc>

WELCOME and PRAYER OF THE DAY:

PSALM 46: *SELECTED VERSES* *READ RESPONSIVELY*

God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea.

Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!

A river brings joy to the city of our God, the sacred home of the Most High.

God dwells in that city; it cannot be destroyed.

From the very break of day, God will protect it.

The Lord of Heaven's Armies is here among us; the God of Israel is our fortress.

"Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honoured by every nation. I will be honoured throughout the world."

The Lord of Heaven's Armies is here among us; the God of Israel is our fortress.

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Nehemiah 4:1-23

¹Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage & mocked the Jews, ²saying in front of his friends & the Samaritan army officers, "What does this bunch of poor, feeble Jews think they're doing? Do they think they can build the wall in a single day by just offering a few sacrifices? Do they actually think they can make something of stones from a rubbish heap—and charred ones at that?" ³Tobiah the Ammonite, who was standing beside him, remarked, "That stone wall would collapse if even a fox walked along the top of it!" ⁴Then I prayed, "Hear us, our God, for we are being mocked. May their scoffing fall back on their own heads, & may they themselves become captives in a foreign land!" ⁵Do not ignore their guilt. Do not blot out their sins, for they have provoked you to anger here in front of the builders." ⁶At last the wall was completed to half its height around the entire city, for the people had worked with enthusiasm.

⁷But when Sanballat, Tobiah & the Arabs, Ammonites, & Ashdodites heard that the work was going ahead & that the gaps in the wall of Jerusalem were being repaired, they were furious. ⁸They all made plans to come & fight against Jerusalem & throw us into confusion. ⁹But we prayed to our God & guarded the city day & night to protect ourselves. ¹⁰Then the people of Judah began to complain, "The workers are getting tired, & there is so much rubble to be moved. We will never be able to build the wall by ourselves."

¹¹Meanwhile, our enemies were saying, "Before they know what's happening, we will swoop down on them & kill them & end their work." ¹²The Jews who lived near the enemy came & told us again & again, "They will come from all directions & attack us!" ¹³So I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to stand guard by families, armed with swords, spears, & bows. ¹⁴Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles & the rest of the people & said to them, "Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great & glorious, & fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, & your homes!"

¹⁵When our enemies heard that we knew of their plans & that God had frustrated them, we all returned to our work on the wall.

¹⁶But from then on, only half my men worked while the other half stood guard with spears, shields, bows, & coats of mail. The leaders stationed themselves behind the people of Judah ¹⁷who were building the wall. The labourers carried on their work with one hand supporting their load & one hand holding a weapon. ¹⁸All the builders had a sword belted to their side. The trumpeter stayed with me to sound the alarm.

¹⁹Then I explained to the nobles & officials & all the people, "The work is very spread out, & we are widely separated from each other along the wall. ²⁰When you hear the blast of the trumpet, rush to wherever it is sounding. Then our God will fight for us!"

²¹We worked early & late, from sunrise to sunset. Half the men were always on guard. ²²I also told everyone living outside the walls to stay in Jerusalem. That way they & their servants could help with guard duty at night & work during the day. ²³During this time, none of us—not I, nor my relatives, nor my servants, nor the guards who were with me—ever took off our clothes. We carried our weapons with us at all times, even when we went for water.

FAITH CHAT:

SONG: *Jesus Strong & Kind* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5Y8s-Sz_ac

THE MESSAGE: *ROAD TO RECOVERY: REPEL OPPOSITION*

PRAYERS:

The Communion:

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 & forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: Reckless Love (Cory Asbury) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sc6SSHuZvQE>

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING:

**† _____, child of God, the Holy Spirit
is your sword, shield & defender! Amen.**

Announcements:

SONG: *May the Lord bless you and keep you (AT 685)*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6GkJnCnEsY>

SHOW HIS LOVE

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Nehemiah 4:1-23. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you hear God say to you as you read it a few times to yourself?
2. What do you think was the purpose of Sanballat's & Tobiah's "speech" to their buddies in vss 2-3? Compare Nehemiah's responses here & those in 2:20. What do you see?
3. What is so important about Nehemiah's response to opposition & attack? How does verse 6 suggest the people responded to Nehemiah's prayer for them? If the insults, mockery & scorn of the opponents was in public & Nehemiah's response in prayer was also public, how does the people's dedication & joint effort prove the strength of the prayer versus the weakness of the enemies?
4. What does fear do to us? How do we combat fear? Why is fear a greater enemy than many of the physical threats we face in life? How often does what you fear actually come to pass? How often are fears unfounded & unreasonable? How does Nehemiah address both elements of the threats his people face, both the physical & the spiritual?
5. What arrangements did Nehemiah make for the defence of the people? What did Nehemiah say to bolster the people's courage? Would that help you in our current climate? How did God answer Nehemiah's prayer? What happened when the enemies learned of Nehemiah's preparations?
6. We have noted in worship that Nehemiah lives out his call by putting "skin in the game." How do you see that here? How has he accepted the risk & the cost of his call from God? How does his example encourage you toward greater engagement in Christ's mission in Wagga Wagga through Living Water?
7. What is something you could do to further Christ's work in Wagga through Living Water, but is so large (but so real to you) that only God's power could accomplish it? What stops you from giving that a full effort?
8. In what area of your life does the "rubble" seem insurmountable? What would you need to do to overcome it & rebuild that part of your life for God's glory?
9. What parallels can you draw between the opposition faced by the Israelites in building the wall & the opposition we face as followers of Christ? What stops you quickest; external criticism/threat, or internal doubt/fear? Why?
10. Why is it important for believers to model faith-driven perseverance? What are ways that you can prepare yourself for Satan's attacks so that you can be alert & yet continue the work to which God has called you?