

# Living Water Fellowship

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

12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION JERUSALEM – CityAlight <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wX4ZCHRksBA> CCL Licence 384660

## WELCOME and PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Almighty & always-gracious God, our salvation depends upon you & you alone. So set us free from worldly things & worldly worries so we can truly hear & obey your Word. Release us from our anxious moments & fear-bound living so that by your Spirit we discern & obey your will for us. Let our lives be lived to offer witness to your saving power & redeeming love; through our Lord Jesus Christ Amen.

## GROW IN HIS GRACE

**BIBLE READING:** 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

### FAITH CHAT:

- How do you feel when you hear each of these words: SPEND SAVE GIVE

**SONG:** Living Hope <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSbJPZLNluc> (Phil Wickham) CCL Licence 384660

How great the chasm that lay between us  
How high the mountain I could not climb  
In desperation, I turned to heaven  
And spoke Your name into the night  
Then through the darkness, Your loving-kindness  
Tore through the shadows of my soul  
The work is finished, the end is written  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy?  
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?  
The God of ages stepped down from glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame  
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven  
The King of kings calls me His own  
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

### **[Chorus]**

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free  
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken every chain  
There's salvation in Your name  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

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Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken every chain  
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Jesus Christ, my living hope

Then came the morning that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me

Then came the morning that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me  
Jesus, Yours is the victory, whoa!

### **[Chorus]**

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Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken every chain  
There's salvation in Your name  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free  
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken every chain  
There's salvation in Your name  
Jesus Christ, my living hope  
Jesus Christ, my living hope  
Oh God, You are my living hope

**THE MESSAGE:** AUTHENTIC GENEROSITY: INSPIRATION FOR GENEROSITY

### **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.)

*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.**

## *GO IN HIS POWER*

**BLESSING:**

**† \_\_\_\_\_, child of God, May the joy set before Jesus Christ,  
be the joy you live each day!  
Amen.**

**SONG:**

*IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbNm\\_Kdez8o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbNm_Kdez8o)

When peace like a river, attendeth my way  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

**[Chorus]**

It is well, (it is well)  
With my soul, (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
And has shed His own blood for my soul!

**[Chorus]**

It is well, (it is well)  
With my soul, (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin - O, the bliss of this glorious thought,  
My sin - not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

**[Chorus]**

It is well, (it is well)  
With my soul, (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

And, Lord haste the day, when our faith shall be sight  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend!  
Even so - it is well with my soul.

**[Chorus 2x to end]**

It is well, (it is well)  
With my soul, (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Songwriters: Philip Paul Bliss / Christopher C. C. Stafford  
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## *SHOW HIS LOVE*

## **2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15**

8:1 Now I want you to know, dear brothers & sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. <sup>2</sup> They are being tested by many troubles, & they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup> For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will.

<sup>4</sup> They begged us again & again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord & then to us, just as God wanted them to do.

<sup>6</sup> So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you & encourage you to finish this ministry of giving. <sup>7</sup> Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, & your love from us — I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving. <sup>8</sup> I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches.

<sup>9</sup> You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.

<sup>10</sup> Here is my advice: It would be good for you to finish what you started a year ago. Last year you were the first who wanted to give, & you were the first to begin doing it. <sup>11</sup> Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving. Give in proportion to what you have. <sup>12</sup> Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have. <sup>13</sup> Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others & hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality. <sup>14</sup> Right now you have plenty & can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty & can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal. <sup>15</sup> As the Scriptures say,

“Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over,  
and those who gathered only a little had enough.”

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

1. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15. What questions immediately come to mind for you? What specific words here grab your attention? Why those words?
2. How do you know when you are being generous? How do you measure it? Are there stories of generosity you have heard which have spurred you to greater giving? Does someone else's effort encourage or discourage yours? Why?
3. What was the condition of the churches in Macedonia? What was the most important factor for their generosity? What did they have in abundance? How does that combination work counter-intuitively in their giving? Do you believe that is possible? Why/not?
4. What insight does Paul share that makes such “above & beyond expectation” generosity possible even in trying circumstances? Is that insight one by which you live?
5. One of Living Water's core values/practices of discipleship is that we “Embody Christlike generosity.” How is that being shaped in your life? How has it grown in the last year? Looking at vss 6-7, why is it important to grow in the totality of discipleship & not neglect any one aspect? How are you doing with regard to the 6 LWF Practices of Discipleship?
6. How does a fuller understanding of the gospel actually increase our love for God & people while decreasing our love for self & possessions? How does 2 Cor 4:16-18 also help guide you in that regard?
7. Verses 10-12 point out the relationship between willingness & intentionality in giving. See also 1 Corinthians 16:2. What else catches your attention here? What's the best motive for generosity? What's the worst?
8. The ultimate goal of our generosity is not first to supply a need but to glorify God. Why is it important for you, as an individual Christian & the church (as a community) to be generous as a means to glorify God? How does knowing the joy of generosity help move you that direction? What obstacles are overcome when we live for joy trusting God in all things?
9. Tim Keller says that when people are committing adultery, they know they are doing it; but when someone loves money too much they almost never know it; & expend immense energy denying it. What could someone do to encourage you toward generosity & away from holding on to your financial resources too tightly?
10. “It is not what you'd do with a million, if riches should e'er be your lot. But what you are doing at present with the dollar and a quarter you've got.” - RG LeTourneau who created the first massive earth-moving machines. Respond to his insight from Paul's perspective of having received all things from God, who also gave his Son for our salvation.
11. How does Exodus 16:18, quoted in 2 Corinthians 8:15 serve as an encouragement & promise for you? With whom can you share that this week?