

Living Water Fellowship

4th Sunday in Easter – 8th May 2022

Happy Mother's Day!

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION STAR OF THE MORNING

SONG: Hosanna

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Revelation 5:1-14

¹ Then I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who was sitting on the throne. There was writing on the inside & the outside of the scroll, & it was sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a strong angel, who shouted with a loud voice: "Who is worthy to break the seals on this scroll & open it?" ³ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll & read it.

⁴ Then I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll & read it.

⁵ But one of the twenty-four elders said to me, "Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the heir to David's throne, has won the victory. He is worthy to open the scroll & its seven seals."

⁶ Then I saw a Lamb that looked as if it had been slaughtered, but it was now standing between the throne & the four living beings & among the twenty-four elders. He had seven horns & seven eyes, which represent the sevenfold Spirit of God that is sent out into every part of the earth. ⁷ He stepped forward & took the scroll from the right hand of the one sitting on the throne. ⁸ When he took the scroll, the four living beings & the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, & they held gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God's people. ⁹ And they sang a new song with these words:

"You are worthy to take the scroll & break its seals & open it.

For you were slaughtered, & your blood has ransomed people for God
from every tribe & language & people & nation.

¹⁰ You have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God.
They will reign on the earth."

¹¹ Then I looked again, & I heard the voices of thousands & millions of angels around the throne & of the living beings & the elders. ¹² They sang in a mighty chorus:

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered — to receive power & riches & wisdom & strength & honour & glory & blessing."

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven & on earth & under the earth & in the sea.

They sang:

“Blessing and honour and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever.”

¹⁴ And the four living beings said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped the Lamb.

FIRST CENTURY NEWS:

FAITH CHAT:

1. When is it hardest for you to worship?
2. How might this glimpse of heavenly worship & the implications for worship on earth help you worship more frequently, fully, or wholeheartedly?

THE MESSAGE: *IN CHRIST’S HANDS: UNLEASHING WORSHIP*

OFFERING SONG: *Grace*

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 and forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: LIVING HOPE (PHIL WICKHAM)

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God,
May the Spirit of Christ make your life
an unstoppable force that glorifies God....Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: 10,000 Reasons

SHOW HIS LOVE

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Revelation 5:1-14. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you find most challenging? Why? Read also Rev 2:12-17. How do these two texts relate?
2. If someone asked you, “Why do you worship God?” how would you answer?
3. What do you think the scroll in God’s right hand means? Why does John weep in v 4? Why does the lack of a worthy person produce such grief? What happens, or does **NOT** happen if the scroll can’t be opened? Why is Jesus worthy?
4. What reasons are given for worshipping God in Rev 4? What reasons are given for worshipping the Lamb in Rev 5? What do you see in that comparison?
5. Identify three characteristics of the Lamb that John notes. Why is each important? Why do the elders & creatures fall down before the lamb? What is the implication of their behaviour?
6. Here & in Rev 1:3 John glimpses Jesus & describes him in 2 different ways. What other descriptions of Jesus can you remember from the New Testament? (ie ‘shepherd’) How do the images we have from this part of Revelation compare to those other images? Is it helpful to your faith to have these different perspectives...like having four gospels? Why/not?
7. In v8, John shows the twenty-four elders holding harps and golden bowls full of incense “*which are the prayers of God’s people.*” What does this image suggest about prayer? About our own prayer? How do you feel about that?
8. Read Ps 96. Scholars suggest Rev 5:9ff are the fulfillment of this Psalm. If praise & worship of God – Father, Son & Spirit – is the defining characteristic of life in the new creation how should our lives reflect that here & now? What needs to change in you for that to take place?
9. What does it tell us about the status of the Lamb that he is worshipped alongside “him who sits on the throne”?
10. Here again the “throne” is the central image. It is the hub & focal point of all John sees. Everything flows from & returns to the throne. Anything that does not return to the throne the glory & worship it deserves will be destroyed. The letters to the churches show there is always a competition for being “seated on the throne” of our lives. There is room for only One on the throne of the universe. Compromise or “power sharing arrangements” are deadly. What do you think is competing for your allegiance? What compromises are you tempted to make? How does your life reflect the eternal life & hope given by “the lamb who was slaughtered” or the “new song” of the kingdom?