

Living Water Fellowship

1st Sunday in Advent – 27th November 2022

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION *STAR OF THE MORNING - CCL Licence 384660*

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

SONG: *VIDEO – ALL GLORY BE TO CHRIST (Kings Kaleidoscope)-CCL Licence 384660*

BIBLE READING: Luke 21:25-36

²⁵ “There will be strange signs in the sun, moon, & stars. And here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas & strange tides. ²⁶ People will be terrified at what they see coming upon the earth, for the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power & great glory. ²⁸ So when all these things begin to happen, stand & look up, for your salvation is near!”

²⁹ Then he gave them this illustration: “Notice the fig tree, or any other tree. ³⁰ When the leaves come out, you know without being told that summer is near. ³¹ In the same way, when you see all these things taking place, you can know that the Kingdom of God is near. ³² I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene until all these things have taken place. ³³ Heaven & earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

³⁴ “Watch out! Don’t let your hearts be dulled by carousing & drunkenness, & by the worries of this life. Don’t let that day catch you unaware, ³⁵ like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth. ³⁶ Keep alert at all times. And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors & stand before the Son of Man.”

THE MESSAGE: *EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS! SEE THE SIGNS*

OFFERING SONG: *VIDEO – Rest My Soul (Tim Timmons) CCLI 384660*

PRAYERS & 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.

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

(Name), † child of God,

**May the Father open your eyes to the signs of his presence
and your heart to the power of his love. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BLESSING: Romans 16:25-27

²⁵ Now all glory to God, who is able to make you strong, just as my Good News says. This message about Jesus Christ has revealed his plan for you Gentiles, a plan kept secret from the beginning of time. ²⁶ But now as the prophets foretold & as the eternal God has commanded, this message is made known to all Gentiles everywhere, so that they too might believe & obey him. ²⁷ All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.

SONG: VIDEO – *Living Hope* (Phil Wickham) CCLI 384660

SHOW HIS LOVE

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Luke 21:25-36. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you find most challenging/encouraging? Why?
2. Read Lk 21:5 to discover what has prompted this extended warning about “signs” from Jesus. Why would that seemingly simple observation give Jesus cause to speak like this? What might he be cautioning against?
3. What “signs” do we note in our own lives that signal a change is underway or that one needs to happen? What do we do with those “signs”? What happens if we ignore them?
4. Take time to read all of Luke 21. As he speaks, do you think some of what he says is pointed toward a nearer calamity such as the coming destruction of Jerusalem by Rome while some is calling attention to his return at the end of the ages? How do his words point in both directions simultaneously?
5. What should it mean in practical terms to be on guard or watch because we do not know when Jesus will return? What do you think Jesus means when he says “*heaven & earth will disappear*”? As a result, what does Jesus mean when he warns against allowing our “*hearts to be dulled*”? How does that happen at times in your life?
6. For more than two years we’ve lived with increased anxiety, threat, & at times, chaos in our world. How have these circumstances caused you to be more aware of the possibility that Christ will return soon? How have these circumstances caused you to be more mindful of your standing before God as his child? Have you used these last two-plus years to “*stand up lift up your heads because your redemption is drawing near*”? If not, why not? If so, how?
7. If you knew Jesus would return in two months, how would life change now? What things would be less important & what things would be more important? Can you make those changes now – because of the real possibility he MAY just return in two months?
8. Compared to even a few years ago, what is your relationship with waiting? Are you more patient? Less patient? Why do you think that is so?
9. How well does your life reflect vs 36? How does your faith in the Son of man overcome fear, apprehension & impatience with him?
10. When you watch & pray, what happens? Have you ever shared that with someone who is not a follower of Jesus? Make that a goal this week as part of your staying alert.