

Living Water Fellowship

2nd Sunday in Advent – 4th December 2022

COME TO JESUS

SONGS: O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Even So Come

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Luke 3:1-6

¹ It was now the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, the Roman emperor. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea; Herod Antipas was ruler over Galilee; his brother Philip was ruler over Iturea & Tracoonitis; Lysanias was ruler over Abilene. ² Annas & Caiaphas were the high priests. At this time a message from God came to John son of Zechariah, who was living in the wilderness. ³ Then John went from place to place on both sides of the Jordan River, preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins & turned to God to be forgiven. ⁴ Isaiah had spoken of John when he said,
“He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming!
Clear the road for him!
⁵ The valleys will be filled, and the mountains and hills made level.
The curves will be straightened, and the rough places made smooth.
⁶ Then all people will see the salvation sent from God.”

CHILDREN’S TIME:

THE MESSAGE: EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS! HEAR THE VOICE

OFFERING SONG: Good & Gracious King

PRAYERS:

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Luke 3:1-6. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you think is the main point of this text? Why?
2. Why do you think Luke is so intentional about the historical details of Jesus’ birth? In these verses there are 9 names, 6 geographic locations, 4 different “titles,” & 1 calendar reference. What does that tell you about the verifiability of the gospel in contrast with other belief systems & spiritual pursuits? Read Luke 1:1-4 as you share.
3. What sorts of “authority” is represented in this list? What is the source of their authority as leaders? How does it compare with John’s?
4. If you were to do some research on these people, you’d discover they were a “rogue’s gallery” of powerful, prideful, sometimes violent men. What does that say about the spiritual condition of the nation?
5. Why do you think God chose someone like John to be Jesus’ forerunner? Do you believe John’s lineage had something to do with it? (See Lk 1:5-7)
6. How does Luke summarize John’s message in vs 3? What was this intended to accomplish? (Lk 1:77) How was John different from all the “important” people mentioned in the first two verses?
7. What prophecy does John fulfill from Isaiah 40? How did this also fulfill the words of the angel (Lk 1:16-17) & the prophecy of Zacharias (Lk 1:76-79)?
8. How do you define “repentance”? What place does it have in the life of an unbeliever & in the life of a believer? Luther noted, “The entire life of the believer is one of repentance.” How is that possible? What does that imply for our daily conversations with God?
9. How is John’s ministry a preparation for the mission of Jesus? John the Baptist was compared to a King’s herald who announced the arrival of the Ruler & called for preparations to be made for the arrival. As you prepare for Christmas, what might be some “crooked” or “rough” places in your life that need attending by Jesus?
10. Read Psalm 139:23-24 as a prayer. How does this prayer serve as a preparation for any work Christ might be doing in your life?
11. How might you act this week for someone you know like John did & prepare a path for them to experience the life & love of Jesus in the coming Christmas season?

THE COMMUNION:

Preparation:

Since we have been raised with Christ Jesus, let us set our minds on heavenly things, not on the things that are on earth. Let's pray together...

Gracious God, in our wanderings & selfish desiring we often forsake fellowship with our families, our friends, & our neighbors; we neglect our communion with you, choosing worldly pleasures over truth, justice, & righteousness. In a world of plenty, we hoard our earthly blessings while others lack. Free us from such bondage, that we may truly reveal the presence of Christ in our lives. Amen.

Christ gave to the church the bread of heaven, his flesh & blood, for our forgiveness, life & salvation. Paul records that gracious gift with these words:

For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me." In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it." For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

Where is another God like you, who pardons the guilt of the remnant, overlooking the sins of his special people?

**You will not stay angry with your people forever,
because you delight in showing unfailing love.**

Once again you will have compassion on us.

You trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean!

(Micah 7:18-19)

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 during Communion:

VIDEO – OFFERING (CHRISTMAS VERSION) (PAUL BALOCHE)-CCL Licence 384660

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

(Name), † child of God, the Father calls you into his love.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: May the Lord Bless you Today (AT 408)

SHOW HIS LOVE