

Living Water Fellowship

All Saints' Sunday – 6th November 2022

COME TO JESUS

SONG: *Come Now is the Time to Worship
Come Praise & Glorify*

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: John 16:16-22

¹⁶ “In a little while you won’t see me anymore. But a little while after that, you will see me again.” ¹⁷ Some of the disciples asked each other, “What does he mean when he says, ‘In a little while you won’t see me, but then you will see me,’ and ‘I am going to the Father’? ¹⁸ And what does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand.”

¹⁹ Jesus realized they wanted to ask him about it, so he said, “Are you asking yourselves what I meant? I said in a little while you won’t see me, but a little while after that you will see me again. ²⁰ I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy. ²¹ It will be like a woman suffering the pains of labour. When her child is born, her anguish gives way to joy because she has brought a new baby into the world. ²² So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy.

CHILDREN’S TIME:

BIBLE READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ Now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.

¹⁵ We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. ¹⁷ Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ So encourage each other with these words.

FAITH CHAT:

1. ?

2. ?

THE MESSAGE: Table Talk: Grief *with Joy & Hope*

OFFERING SONG: *Ancient of Days (CityAlight)*

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: GOOD & GRACIOUS KING (CityAlight) CCLI 384660

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God,
Life in Christ is your future today!
Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: *For the Lord is Good*

SHOW HIS LOVE

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read John 16:16-22 & 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you find most challenging? What really strikes you in these verses?
2. How is a Christian's grief over the loss of a loved one different from a non-Christian's grief? What does Paul say Christians should see in the death of a follower of Jesus? Is that hard even when you know the deceased was a Christian? Why?
3. How is ignorance or misinformation dangerous? What does Paul want them to know in this situation? Why would the fate of believers who die before Jesus returns be a worry? According to Paul, what is the common destiny of believers, living or already dead when Christ returns?
4. What is Xn hope? How do we know this hope is sure & certain & not just wishful thinking? How should what we know about Jesus give us hope regarding those believers who have died? ...about our own deaths?
5. Please read also 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 & 51-58. How do these verses shed more light on what we're reading here? Paul expects that this sort of hope to transform our grief. What difference do you think this makes? Why?
6. What effect did Paul believe this teaching about the Lord's return would have on his listeners? Verse 18 tells us to encourage one another "with these words." What would that look like in practice? How can this become not only an encouragement to believers, but a witness to not-yet-believers?
7. How does Jesus contrast the "world's" joy with that his followers will experience? Note also the difference Paul sees between believers & those who have no hope. How do Jesus' words here make that contrast even clearer?
8. What is the good news about the joy Jesus offers in John 16:22b? What is the unique characteristic of a believer's joy? How can you share that with someone this week who is one of those you know without hope?
9. Read 1 Peter 1:6-8 in light of what Jesus says in John 16:16, 20. What parallels do you see? How do Peter's words encourage us as we await Jesus' return to complete our joy in full?
10. Read John 16:33. In what ways can you view your current difficulties "in reverse" with the knowledge of the promised victory that God will one day work through them?