

# *Living Water Fellowship*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Epiphany – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023*

## *COME TO JESUS*

**SONGS:**                    *Shout to the North*  
                                  *Speak O Lord*

**WELCOME & PRAYER:**

## *GROW IN HIS GRACE*

**BIBLE READING:**                    Matthew 4:12-22

<sup>12</sup>When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he left Judea and returned to Galilee. <sup>13</sup>He went first to Nazareth, then left there and moved to Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. <sup>14</sup>This fulfilled what God said through the prophet Isaiah:

<sup>15</sup>“In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali, beside the sea, beyond the Jordan River, in Galilee where so many Gentiles live,

<sup>16</sup>the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light.

And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a light has shined.”

<sup>17</sup>From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

<sup>18</sup>One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. <sup>19</sup>Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” <sup>20</sup>And they left their nets at once and followed him.

<sup>21</sup>A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too. <sup>22</sup>They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind.

**CHILDREN’S TIME:**

**FAITH CHAT:**

1. Has Jesus ever called you to leave something familiar into something new? What did you do?
2. What do you think it means to “fish for people?” Why does that seem such a difficult calling in 2023?

**THE MESSAGE:**                    *IT’S TIME: KINGDOM CALLING*

**OFFERING SONG:**                    *Before the Throne of God Above*

**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 during Communion:*

VIDEO – CHRIST IS MINE FOREVER (CITYALIGHT)-CCL Licence 384660

*GO IN HIS POWER*

**THE BLESSING:**

**(Name), † child of God, the Father calls you to him  
in his mission to save.  
Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**SONG:**        *This Life I Live*

*SHOW HIS LOVE*

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Matthew 4:12-22. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you think is the main point of this text? Why?
2. Why do you think Jesus waits for John's ministry to end (in prison) to formally begin his own? What does that say about the interconnectedness of their ministries?
3. What is repentance? Of what did people need to repent? What kind of "change/turn of heart & mind" was needed? Why did the kingdom of heaven require such change/turn?
4. How would you define "Kingdom of Heaven" or as elsewhere in the Gospels, "Kingdom of God"? Were Jesus & John mistaken when they said the kingdom was at hand?
5. How does repentance fit into the life of a Christian? Is it something that people do once, or over & over? Why do you say this?
6. Luther's 95 Theses begins by saying: "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." What do you think Luther meant? Do you think he captures Jesus' call correctly? Why/not?
7. What to you is notable about the response of Peter, Andrew, James & John? What does that suggest about the nature & cost of following Jesus? Have you ever made that kind of break with part of your life as a Christian? If not, why not?
8. Explain the significance of the call to fish for people. In what way was the work Jesus had for them to do like fishing? How is it different? How do you do it in the places where you spend your week? Is it a call you can outgrow or from which you retire? Why/not?
9. Please read the rest of Chapter 4 in Matthew's Gospel. What do you think the disciples learned in the early days with Jesus? How is that lifestyle of the Kingdom evident in your life as a follower of Jesus? How do you explain that difference? What should you do now?
10. What question would you like to ask one of those first disciples? What question would you ask Jesus based on these verses from Matthew 4?