

# *Living Water Fellowship*

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024*

## *COME TO JESUS*

**OPENING SONG:** Even So Come  
I Give You My Heart

**WELCOME & PRAYER:**

## *GROW IN HIS GRACE*

**BIBLE READING:** 1 John 1:1-10

<sup>1</sup> We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard & seen. We saw him with our own eyes & touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. <sup>2</sup> This one who is life itself was revealed to us, & we have seen him. Now we testify & proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, & then he was revealed to us. <sup>3</sup> We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen & heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father & with his Son, Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy.

<sup>5</sup> This is the message we heard from Jesus & now declare to you: God is light, & there is no darkness in him at all. <sup>6</sup> So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, & the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

<sup>8</sup> If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves & not living in the truth. <sup>9</sup> But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful & just to forgive us our sins & to cleanse us from all wickedness. <sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar & showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

**CHILDREN'S TIME:**

**SONG:** Good & Gracious King

**BIBLE READING:** Matthew 5:14-16

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> No one lights a lamp & then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

**FAITH CHAT:**

1. What "light show" have you enjoyed most recently? What made it special?
2. How would someone see the light of Jesus in you?

**THE MESSAGE:** *VIBRANT LIVING: VIBRANT COMMUNITY*

**OFFERING SONG:** Ancient of Days

**PRAYERS:**

**THE COMMUNION:**

*The 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 – *WHAT LOVE MY GOD* (CityAlight)

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*GO IN HIS POWER*

**THE BLESSING:**

**(Name), † child of God...**

***You are the light of Christ wherever you are!***

***Amen.***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**SONG:** Living Hope

*SHOW HIS LOVE*

**Group Bible Study/Discussion:**

1. Read 1 John 1:1-10 & Matthew 5:14-16. What strikes you as you read these verses? What questions come to mind?
2. How does John's letter here echo themes from his gospel? (read John 1:1-18 to check) What evidence does John offer for his witness, wisdom & warnings? Why are these persuasive & compelling?
3. What are main purposes of this epistle that you can see John defining as he writes? Why are they important? How is that helpful for you?
4. John corrects several false teachings in his letter: (including but not limited to)
  - a. Jesus was not really "flesh," but more like a spirit or angel & did not die
  - b. Some followers of Jesus are without sin
  - c. A relationship with God was possible without JesusHow does John speak to those in these verses? What would you say, & what Biblical evidence would you offer, for your conviction? What's at stake in these falsehoods?
5. What is the "beginning" to which John refers? Who is the "we" of whom John writes?
6. In her commentary on 1 John, Karen Jobes writes, "John points to the Word who is eternal Life as the grounds for assurance about eternal life." How does the reassurance of eternal life effect your daily life? If it doesn't seem to, what perhaps should you do?
7. The apostle John, even as an old man in & out of Roman prisons & persecution, continues to proclaim & testify about his experience with the living God in the flesh, of Jesus. How do you proclaim the work of Jesus in your life & share it with others who will share it into a new generation after you are no longer here?
8. What verse in 1 John 1:10 is most reassuring for you? Why?
9. Those who follow Christ bring light to a dark world. What might cause someone to "hide" their life in Christ from others? Why is that a risk no one should take? (Mt 10:33)
10. Why must God-pleasing righteousness be different from & greater than that of the Pharisees & teachers of the law? How does Jesus fulfil that demand for us?
11. What verse in Matthew 5:14-16 is most reassuring for you? Why?
12. What other questions do you still have here?

Continue praying through the week:

***Father prepare me for whatever you require today  
and lead me in faith wherever you call me to go.  
In Jesus' Name...Amen.***