

# *Living Water Fellowship*

*20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Pentecost*

*6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024*

*COME TO JESUS*

**SONGS:** *Hear Our Praises*

**WELCOME & PRAYER:**  
*GROW IN HIS GRACE*

**BIBLE READING:** Psalm 1:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.

<sup>2</sup> But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season.  
Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.

<sup>4</sup> But not the wicked!

They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.

<sup>5</sup> They will be condemned at the time of judgment.

Sinners will have no place among the godly.

<sup>6</sup> For the Lord watches over the path of the godly,  
but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.

**CHILDREN'S TIME:**

**BIBLE READING:** Romans 12:1-2

<sup>1</sup> So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.

<sup>2</sup> Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

**SONG:** *Glorious Day*

## FAITH CHAT:

1. What is one social or cultural change you've experienced in the last 15-20 years? How has that impacted your life?
2. Where do you find your faith in Christ most challenged by the culture of the 21<sup>st</sup> century? How are you currently responding to that challenge?

**THE MESSAGE:**      *PRESSURE POINTS: SOCIAL PRESSURE*

**OFFERING SONG:**      *This is How We Know*

**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 – A THOUSAND HALLELUJAHS*

*GO IN HIS POWER*

**THE BLESSING:**

**(Name), † child of God,  
Christ calls you into his likeness  
and grants his joy as your destiny.  
-- Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**SONG:**      *To God Be The Glory*

*SHOW HIS LOVE*

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## Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Psalm 1 and Romans 12:1-2. What strikes you as you read? What do you find most challenging?
2. Ps 1 forces us to ask ourselves: *Who Influences Me? Where do I receive joy? Where do I get Strength & Sustenance? What kind of journey am I on in this life?* How does the Psalmist address those issues by way of contrast?
3. Notice that there is a progression in the life of the one who self-alienates from God in where they walk, stand, and sit? What are the implications of this progression in life? What is the ultimate result of living that lifestyle? Contrast that with Paul's letter to the Ephesians: Ephesians 2:6, 4:1, & 6:11. What do you again see in Paul as in Psalm 1?
4. What does it mean to "meditate"? Do you ever encounter one verse that just won't let go of you...it sticks with you all day? What do you do when that happens? If it doesn't, perhaps you can adjust your style of reading the Bible...read more, read more slowly, read a text several times in succession...
5. Luther suggested asking 3 questions about a passage to allow the Holy Spirit to guide you more deeply in meditation & reflection: (*use them here for Ps 1 & Rom 1:1-2*)
  - i. How does this truth lead me to praise God?
  - ii. What sins do I need to confess in light of this truth?
  - iii. What should I pray for in light of this truth?
6. Why does the culture around us exert such pressure on us? Where do you most experience that?
7. In 12:1, on what basis does Paul urge us to present ourselves to God? How does Rom 12:1 upend what we usually think of as "worship"?
8. Rom 12:2 reminds us it is not enough to say, "no" to a particular pattern of cultural surrender, but we rather say, "Yes" to what? How can we do that boldly & consistently?
9. Instead of seeing those different from you as enemies, even if they are opposed to your faith in Jesus, how might you see them as objects of God's love & sinners in need of your witness to his redeeming grace?
10. What does this text call you to do?

## Remember:

When every force around you says divide & conquer, Christ calls "Be one in me"

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.**