

# Living Water Fellowship

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION      SING (SOVEREIGN GRACE MUSIC)

**SONG:**                      O Breath of Life

**WELCOME & PRAYER:**

## GROW IN HIS GRACE

**BIBLE READING:**                      Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>3</sup> All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. <sup>4</sup> Even before he made the world, God loved us & chose us in Christ to be holy & without fault in his eyes. <sup>5</sup> God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, & it gave him great pleasure. <sup>6</sup> So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. <sup>7</sup> He is so rich in kindness & grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son & forgave our sins. <sup>8</sup> He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom & understanding. <sup>9</sup> God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfil his own good plan. <sup>10</sup> And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven & on earth. <sup>11</sup> Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, & he makes everything work out according to his plan. <sup>12</sup> God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise & glory to God. <sup>13</sup> Now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. When you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. <sup>14</sup> The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised & that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise & glorify him.

**CHILDREN'S TIME:**

**SONG:**                      Cornerstone

**FAITH CHAT:**

1. What is one of your many God-given blessings for which you are particularly thankful today? (*I'll assume "I'm alive" so name something else*)
2. If you were asked to identify yourself, what forms of identity do you possess? Which of your identifiers is most important to you? Why

**THE MESSAGE:** *WINDS OF CHANGE: STAND IN THE SON*

**OFFERING SONG:** Man of Sorrows

**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 – O COME ALL YOU UNFAITHFUL - CCL Licence 384660*

*GO IN HIS POWER*

**THE BLESSING:**

**(Name), † child of God,  
God has blessed you in his Son as his own!  
Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**SONG:** Dwell in Your House

*SHOW HIS LOVE*

*All songs & music in worship used under the licensing agreement of CCL Licence 384660*

**Group Bible Study/Discussion:**

1. Read Ephesians 1:3-14. What questions immediately come to mind? What strikes you as you read this text?
2. In the original Greek text of this text, Eph 1:3-14 is one long sentence praising God recounting the many ways the Father has blessed us in Jesus Christ, the Son. List as many of those blessings as you can directly from the text.
3. 36 times in this letter, Paul describes a believer's source of life & blessing is "in Christ." Over 400 times, the Old Testament describes God "blessing" his people. If the God we meet in Scripture and most particularly in Jesus Christ is known for the good he gives to his people, what kind of character does that imply? If God is One who wants to bless, & does, how does that shape your relationship to him?
4. What does it mean to be "in Christ"? How does your being "in Christ" determine your identity above all else?
5. How are verses 4-5 a good summary of the gospel? How can the truth expressed there be a way to share the good news with someone you know who is currently not part of the body of Christ?
6. Paul says that we are "In Christ holy & without fault" in God's sight. Do you feel "holy" or "without fault"? Why/not? If God sees you that way, what does that mean? How does that impact both how you think of yourself **AND** how you view others?
7. Paul uses the language of "praise" to God 4 times in these verses. Is that behaviour a private thing (between you & God) or a public one that others will notice? Is it both? How do you engage in giving God praise beyond the confines of Sunday worship? Does anyone outside the fellowship of believers know that's what you're doing?
8. Paul says God will one day bring all things under the authority of Christ. How will those who have spent their lives rejecting or ignoring or making light of Christ's gift of eternal life experience that authority? What does that mean for you?
9. Describe the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing God's salvation in Christ to reality in your life?
10. How does this text bring you hope, encouragement & comfort at this present time? With whom can you share that?

**Remember:**

God chose you in Christ. He stands in you as you stand before the world.

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.***