

Living Water Fellowship

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany – 26th January 2025

COME TO JESUS

SONG: Lord Be the Rising (AT 676)

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Psalm 1:1-6

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

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

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

⁴ But not so the wicked! They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.

⁵ They will be condemned at the time of judgment.
Sinners will have no place among the godly.

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

CHILDREN'S TIME:

SONG: Because We Bear Your Name (AT 292)

BIBLE READING: Colossians 2:6-10

⁶ Now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him.

⁷ Let your roots grow down into him, & let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, & you will overflow with thankfulness. ⁸ Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies & high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking & from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. ⁹ For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. ¹⁰ So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler & authority.

FAITH CHAT:

1. What is one thing you do consistently to "let your roots grow down into Christ?"
2. Where would Paul say a believer's life in Christ is lived?
How would Paul fill in the blank...Discipleship happens (here)

THE MESSAGE: *WINDS OF CHANGE: REMAIN IN THE WORD*

OFFERING SONG: So You Would Come (PW 821)

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 – I SPEAK JESUS (Here Be Lions)

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God...
The Father has planted your life in Christ!
Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: Filled My Life with Grace (AT 548)

SHOW HIS LOVE

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Remember:

As God plants & grows you in his word,
Christ grows in you.

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.**

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Psalm 1:1-6 & Colossians 2:6-10. What questions immediately come to mind? What strikes you as you read this text?
2. Ps 1 forces us to ask ourselves: *Who Influences Me? What is My Delight? Where do I get Strength & Sustenance? What kind of journey am I on in this life?* How does the Psalmist address those questions? How do you? Take time to share.
3. How does Ps 1 distinguish between the two kinds of people in the world? Notice how a "blessed/joy-filled" person is initially notable by what they **DO NOT** do. How would you describe the progression of those behaviours (*follow, stand around, join in*) if they were to be followed? What do they do instead? Why is that such a difference? What are the results?
4. What does it mean to "meditate"? We've noted elsewhere that here, "the law," is not just the commandments, moral codes, do this/don't do that of the Sinai covenant, but the wider understanding of living by God's wisdom & God's way of dealing with other people & life circumstances in the world. How is that a "delight"-producing way of life?
5. What do you see in the outcome of those the Psalm refers to as "wicked"? How do you feel about that? What responsibility do the "godly" have toward them? Notice that the outcome for the "wicked" is mostly self-inflicted. How might you gently point out the natural consequences of someone's behaviour offering them a path to the river of life-giving water found in Jesus?
6. From your experience, can you name or describe some of the "empty philosophies & high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking & from the spiritual powers of this world" that you see today's world? How does God's word speak to those things?
7. How do you keep Paul's command in Col 2:6-7? What are the best ways you know how to do that? Have you ever shared that with someone not yet a part of Christ's family?
8. To "overflow with thankfulness" is Paul describing an uncontainable abundance of thanksgiving that flows & spills over in the life of the follower of Jesus at all times, places, & circumstances. Name some of the many things Christians have for such thankfulness? Is this your current experience of life in Christ? The unfortunate reality is that many Christians lose this sense of overwhelming gratitude over time. How can such overflowing thankfulness be recaptured again? What would Paul's advice be in your opinion?
9. A better translation of the end of verse 6 is something like: "continue to live your lives in him" OR "continue to walk in him." The emphasis in the Greek is "IN" Christ. Paul sees the whole life of the follower of Jesus as being lived "IN" Christ such that Christ is who is visible in our lives. (see also Gal. 2:20) Does that accurately describe you as a follower of Jesus? If not, what steps can you take today to make it so?
10. What does this part of God's Word call you to do?