

Living Water Fellowship

3rd Sunday in Lent – 23rd March 2025

COME TO JESUS

GATHERING MUSIC: VIDEO – SING (Stiff & Zimmer)

WELCOME & PRAYER:

OPENING SONG: VIDEO – ANCIENT OF DAYS (CityAlight)

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Luke 9:18-27

¹⁸ One day Jesus left the crowds to pray alone. Only his disciples were with him, and he asked them, “Who do people say I am?” ¹⁹ “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say you are one of the other ancient prophets risen from the dead.” ²⁰ Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” Peter replied, “You are the Messiah sent from God!” ²² Then Jesus said to his disciples, “The Son of Man must suffer many terrible things.” “He will be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, & the teachers of religious law. He will be killed, but on the third day he will be raised from the dead.”

²³ Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, & follow me. ²⁴ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. ²⁵ What do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed? ²⁶ If anyone is ashamed of me & my message, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in his glory & in the glory of the Father & the holy angels. ²⁷ I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Kingdom of God.”

CHILDREN’S TIME:

SONG: VIDEO – BE UNTO YOUR NAME (DeShazo)

BIBLE READING: Psalm 115:1-8 & 11-15

¹ Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name goes all the glory
for your unfailing love and faithfulness.

² Why let the nations say, where is their God?”

³ Our God is in the heavens, and he does as he wishes.

⁴ Their idols are merely things of silver and gold, shaped by human hands.

⁵ They have mouths but cannot speak, and eyes but cannot see.

⁶ They have ears but cannot hear, and noses but cannot smell.

⁷ They have hands but cannot feel, and feet but cannot walk,
and throats but cannot make a sound.

⁸ And those who make idols are just like them, as are all who trust in them...

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Luke 9:18-27 & Psalm 115:1-8 & 11-15. What strikes you in these verses?
2. What are some common misconceptions about the identity of Jesus? How do you think that false beliefs about Jesus came into being? How would you offer a genuine insight into Jesus if someone you knew was misguided?
3. What does it mean that Jesus is “the Messiah sent from God” (Luke 9:20)? What are the implications of this declaration?
4. How were Jesus’ words in verses 21-22 in conflict with the disciples’ (and all of Israel’s) expectations about the Messiah? Why would they have been difficult for them to hear or accept?
5. Jesus says that we must take up our cross daily. Why is the “daily” there so important? If a not-yet-Christian followed me around for a week, how would they know that I believe Jesus is “the Messiah” & am seeking to follow him carrying my cross daily?
6. What two characteristics of God’s glory does the Psalmist highlight? How are those two reflected in Jesus?
7. Have you wondered “Where is God in this?” about a circumstance or event in your life or in the world around you? What did you discover over time? Have you ever shared that with someone before, particularly a person who is presently outside the church?
8. How does the Psalmist contrast the pagan idols with God? What’s the biggest difference? Could you have that conversation with a friend who argues against worship of “any” god/God? How would you explain your perspective?
9. How does Jesus’s life, death, & resurrection secure our hope in the Lord? Why is it critical that we trust Him? How does Jesus fulfill the blessing of Ps 115:14-15?
10. How does the Psalmist’s pledge to trust in God inspire your faith journey?
11. What does Jesus, in His Word, today call you to do in the week ahead?

Remember:

*Whole-Hearted conviction follows Jesus
and carries its own cross daily.*

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.***

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

- ¹¹ All you who fear the Lord, trust the Lord! He is your helper and your shield.
¹² The Lord remembers us and will bless us.
He will bless the people of Israel and bless the priests, the descendants of Aaron.
¹³ He will bless those who fear the Lord, both great and lowly.
¹⁴ May the Lord richly bless both you and your children.
¹⁵ May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

FAITH CHAT:

1. In today's world, what do the people you know worship besides Jesus?
2. What do you think the Psalmist means when he says those who make or trust in "idols" "are just like them"?

THE MESSAGE: *WHOLE-HEARTED CONVICTION*

OFFERING SONG: VIDEO – WHAT LOVE MY GOD (*CityAlight*)

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

Preparation

Let us pray together...

Eternal God, you asked for our hands, that you might use them for your purpose. We gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard.

You asked for our mouths to speak of your love & against injustice; but we spoke in whispers that we might not be accused.

You asked for our eyes to see the pain of others; but we closed them, for we did not want to see.

You asked for our lives, that you might work through us; but we gave a small part, that we might not be inconvenienced or embarrassed.

Lord, forgive our calculated efforts to serve you – when it is to our advantage or when it is safe or among those who make it easy to do so. Father, forgive us, renew us, & send us out as usable instruments, that we might live in the shape of your cross. Amen.

Our great God & Saviour Jesus Christ gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness & to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift! **Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sin, & restore us in his image, to the praise & glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 – COME AS YOU ARE (*Crowder*)

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING: (*1 Corinthians 15:58*)

**(Name), † child of God,
"Be steadfast & immovable! Excel in the work of the Lord
because you know that your labour in the Lord
is not wasted."
-- Amen**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: I WANT TO KNOW YOU (*CityAlight*)

SHOW HIS LOVE