

Living Water Fellowship

15th Sunday in Pentecost – 21st September 2025

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION *REJOICE THE LORD IS KING (Emu Music)*

WELCOME & PRAYER:

SONG: VIDEO – I Speak Jesus (*Here Be Lions*)

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

¹³ Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God & obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty. ¹⁴ God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.

CHILDREN'S TIME

BIBLE READING: 1 Peter 2:4-10

⁴ As you come to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honour. ⁵ And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. ⁶ As the Scriptures say,

“I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honour, anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.”

⁷ Yes, you who trust him recognize the honour God has given him. But for those who reject him,

“The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.”

⁸ And, “He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they do not obey God's word, & so they meet the fate that was planned for them. ⁹ But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession; so that you may proclaim the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

¹⁰ “Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy.”

SONG: VIDEO – His Mercy is More (*Getty Music/Boswell & Papa*)

FAITH CHAT:

1. Have you ever tried to “convince” someone to become a follower of Jesus? Did you succeed? What might have worked more effectively?
2. What do you think encourages most people to become followers of Jesus?

THE MESSAGE: *SINCE YOU ASKED: DOES LIFE HAVE A PURPOSE*

OFFERING SONG: VIDEO – My Father’s World (*Jadon Lavik*)

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

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 – *Living Hope* (*Phil Wickham*)

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God,
You were made by God in love,
for God to love! -- Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: VIDEO – Grace Awaiting Me (*Emu Music*)

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SHOW HIS LOVE

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 & 1 Peter 2:4-10. What questions come to you as you read the text? What do you find most challenging/encouraging?
2. Pastor John said: “*You can’t argue someone into faith in Jesus.*” Do you believe that is true/false? Why? What did he suggest instead?
3. 1 Peter 4-10 speak uniquely to the community of believers...all of us at once. How much do you think of yourself as part of the ‘body’ of Christ, the church, rather than as an individual Christian who ‘goes to’ church? How does this description of the church change your view of your being part of the church?
4. Why do you think Peter describes Jesus as the “*Cornerstone*” who is “*rejected by people but chosen by God*”? In what sense are those who come to Jesus “*living stones*,” & how does God use them? How are “*living stones*” different from temple stones? The early Israelites proclaimed that God “*lived*” in the Temple in Jerusalem. Now, in Christ, God is building “*His Temple*” through the lives of followers of Christ wherever they live! How does this impact the way you think about your life?
5. If each individual believer is a “*living stone*,” what does it mean for believers to be a “*holy priesthood*,” who offer “*spiritual sacrifices*”?
6. The quote from Isaiah 28:16 in vs 6 assures us that those who trust in Jesus will never be ‘put to shame.’ We are eternally secure in Jesus. What difference does this make to you in the often difficult world in which we live & when we are sometimes disrespected for our faith?
7. How does considering Isaiah’s life of faithfulness in the face of opposition & the lack of visible fruit help you think about your own life? In what ways does the Jesus Christ cause some people to stumble & fall?
8. Not the contrasts in these verses (rejected/selected, people/not people, etc...) Who is the chief actor in our being selected, chosen, built...? Why is that important?
9. How does being chosen by God for his work in this world make you feel? What are some practical ways that we go about this work faithfully?
10. What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with these texts?

Remember:

Our purpose is to live as who God says we are.

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.