

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

November 19, 2023

## From the Heart

Thanksgiving is a form of worship that can truly bring joy to the heart of the worshipper when it comes from the heart (Psalm 34:1-3) and not just because of the season (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). What do I mean by this?

I am always amazed at the picture of Lazarus sitting near Jesus with Mary on the floor, pouring her heart out to Christ in John 12:1-8. The disciples also shared a seat near the honored guest, Jesus, while Judas complained about Mary's lavish worship. How can anyone be this composed when most people died at the age of 45 during the time of Jesus on earth. Jesus raised Lazarus from the grave after four days? How could a resurrection occur in these conditions, and Christ only gains one true worshipper? The same with Paul, who, once he realized what Christ meant to him, counted all things lost (Philippians 3:1-6). When this occurs, it has to do with the pure meaning of worship.

Worship occurs when we highlight the worth or value of the person being magnified. Before Christ came to Mary, she wept over her brother's death. After her brother Lazarus's resurrection, she worshipped Christ. She was mad that Jesus took a long time to come because she believed that He loved them and would do anything to help them, including healing their brother from his sickness. Christ did not come until after her brother had died. After her brother is resurrected, Mary understands that there is nothing Christ cannot do. No one, even Elijah, had ever done this. To everyone, He is the Messiah who will reestablish the Davidic Kingdom (This is why the disciples wanted to know who would sit on the right or left; Mark 10:35-40). Mary saw her Savior who would provide in her life forever, whether on earth or in heaven, so she could use all the pure nard because there was no need to save it for another burial. Christ's true worth became fully exposed before her, and her heart, fully thankful, which led her to worship Him at all costs.

When we see Christ for who He is, what we have gained in this life becomes a mechanism for highlighting His worth because we recognize it all comes from who He is. We also then recognize, compared to Him, our frailty, especially with a predator like satan prowling around every moment of the day, constantly seeking to devour us (Revelation 12:10). We, therefore, focus more on all that He does for us (Philippians 4:8-9). We focus on what goes wrong as trials that mature us (James 1:2-4) because we know His lovingkindness is new every morning. Great is His faithfulness (Lamentations 3:23). Our hearts become more and more thankful each day leading us to sincerely magnify Christ for all that He is, all He has done and is doing; we worship (Psalm 34).



## UPCOMING Events



### ANGEL TREE 2023

Please sign up for Angel Tree in the foyer. Each year Living Word serves over 80 Angel Tree children and teens with a gift for the holidays. We appreciate your support and for more information contact **Janice Brown** at [jrbrown-10@att.net](mailto:jrbrown-10@att.net) or **Linda Harrison** at [harrison2383@sbcglobal.net](mailto:harrison2383@sbcglobal.net)



### SILVER STARS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Join the Silver Stars for their annual Christmas Luncheon on December 8th from 11am-2pm at Fratelli's Ristorante. The cost is \$25 per Living Word Silver Star member and \$40 per person for all guests. For more information contact **Ms. Jacquelyn Jordan** or **Ms. Birdie Williams** at [jacqjordan@att.net](mailto:jacqjordan@att.net)



### TOY DRIVE FOR LWFC KIDZ

Living Word Family, we need you! LWFC Kidz is accepting unwrapped toy donations for the Annual Kids Community Christmas Party on Saturday, December 16, 2023 from 10 am - 12 pm. Bins will be placed in the foyer and the Children's Wing so please donate toys for the kids in the community and join us on December 16th! For more information contact **Mrs. Sylvia Edwards** at [sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org)



### URBAN MISSIONS TEAM PACKS OF LOVE

The Urban Missions Team is now accepting Packs Of Love donations to serve and be distributed to the unhoused population in downtown Houston on Christmas Day. Donations will be collected at the end of Life Application on Sundays and Tuesday Nights. Donation bins will be available for collections. For more information contact **Natividad Smith** at [nds\\_smith@yahoo.com](mailto:nds_smith@yahoo.com)



### WOMEN OF GRACE BRIDGING THE GAP EVENT ON SUN. DEC. 10TH AT 1 PM

Ladies and Teen Girls, please join us for a special event to Bridge the Gap on Sunday, December 10, 2023 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in Legacy Sanctuary, after Contemporary Service. Refreshments & Childcare will be provided. Register below and submit your questions for a panel discussion. Register here at <https://bit.ly/LWFCBridgingGap>

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

"Grateful"

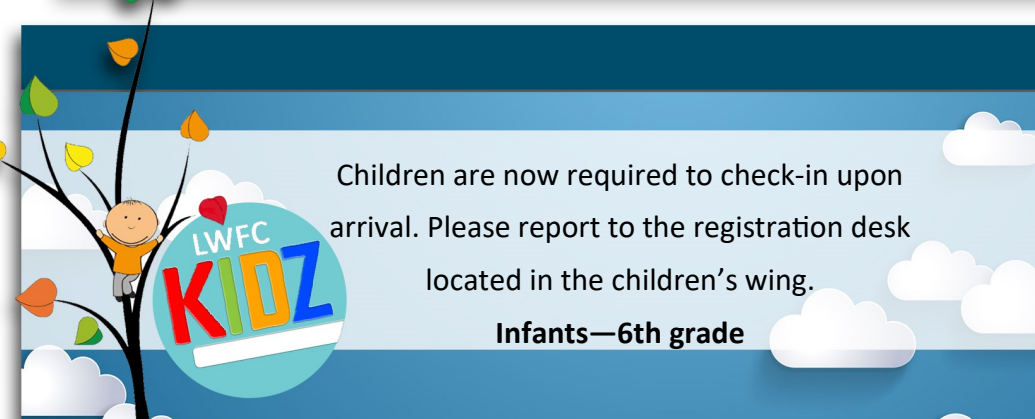
*Jeremiah 33:10-11*

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.

Infants—6th grade





Grateful  
Jeremiah 33:10-11

A. Remember (v. 10):

- 1. These are words that came directly from the Lord and He has nothing else to add on this matter.
- 2. Everyone will continuously provide the Lord their undivided attention with an understanding heart so that they develop an intellectual and spiritual understanding of what He is saying to them.
- 3. The people are very conscious of what their circumstances are and what they are experiencing.
- 4. The streets of Jerusalem are so cut off from life, ravaged and empty, and look so horrible it would leave a person speechless.

B. His Lovingkindness (v. 11):

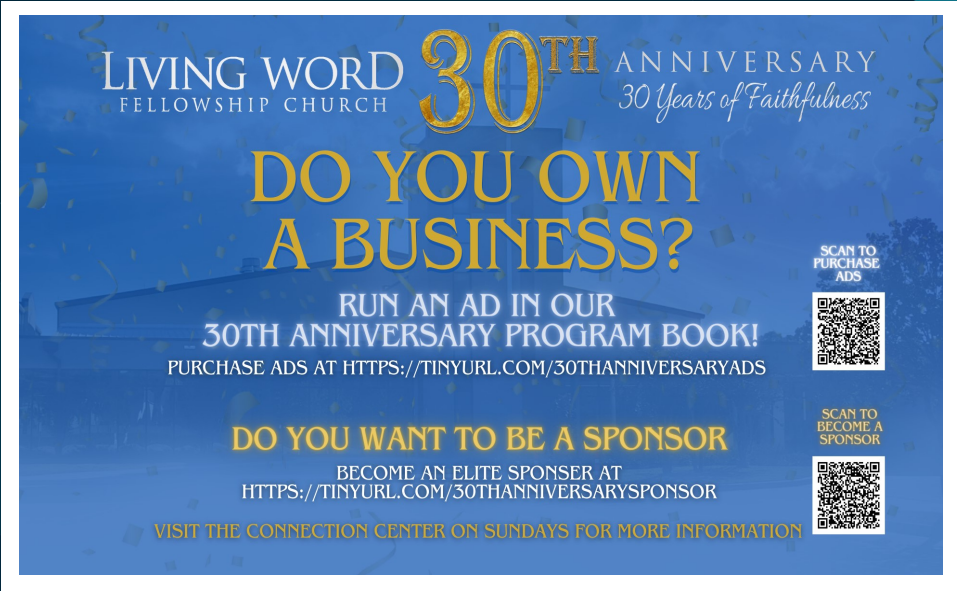
- 1. The voice of those who are in a state of happiness like that of a bride or bridegroom, where there are many expressions of joy.
- 2. The voices of gladness are festive despite unfavorable circumstances. This cheerful state of happiness takes up these individuals' entire disposition.
- 3. Those who proclaim with a heart of praise the nature of God and all He has done are those who are commanded to praise the Lord of Host.
- 4. Being committed to making a declaration in respect of who God is should be a reference to the fact that He is sovereign over all powers in the universe and is the Mightiest Warrior over the armies of heaven and earth and is the King of Israel.
- 5. Joy, gladness and thanks can be expressed freely because of the One who has all power, authority, and desires to have a relationship with His people, is by His very nature pleasant and in an excellent manner is practically good for all those who are His.
- 6. The Lord has all power and authority and because He is loyal to sustain His relationship with us, He is therefore mightily capable to execute daily His steadfast and generous kindness and love towards us.
- 7. The Lord's steadfast loyalty to generously execute His kindness towards us will never change. It is timeless, and indefinitely limitless.
- 8. For all those who purpose in their hearts to make every effort to come into the Lord's house and sacrificially provide an offering to Him He will not just execute His steadfast kindness to them, He will restore their fortunes.
- 9. A thanksgiving offering is to sacrificially provide to the Lord a gift to express praise and worship to who God is and to demonstrate respect for all He has been (Leviticus 7:12-15; 22:29).
- 10. Those who purposefully, sacrificially make a concerted effort to bring a thanksgiving offering into the Lord's house of worship to them the Lord promises to, on His own effort continuously (the mindset is to do something non-stop) replicate all they lost to its original condition.
- 11. Even though there are many who lift up their voices in joy, gladness, and much thanks to God, the Lord only restores the fortunes of those who diligently bring Him a thanksgiving offering.
- 12. The Lord is totally committed to fulfilling what He has promised.



**Christmas TOY DRIVE**

Church-wide donations are now being accepted through Dec. 15th  
Toys will be distributed on Dec. 18 at our Community Christmas Party

For more info contact Mrs. Sylvia Edwards at [sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org) or the Church Administration Office at (281) 260-7402



LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH **30<sup>TH</sup>** ANNIVERSARY  
30 Years of Faithfulness

**DO YOU OWN A BUSINESS?**

RUN AN AD IN OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM BOOK!  
PURCHASE ADS AT [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/30THANNIVERSARYADS](https://tinyurl.com/30thanniversaryads)

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BECOME AN ELITE SPONSOR AT [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/30THANNIVERSARYSPONSOR](https://tinyurl.com/30thanniversarysponsor)

VISIT THE CONNECTION CENTER ON SUNDAYS FOR MORE INFORMATION

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Grieving:** Sheryl Crowe & family, Telisha Brown & family, Eleanor Wilson & family, Pamela Farris & family, Terri Kuvach & family, Donnie Emerson & family, Deidra McKoy & family, Rudy Mazin & family, Ruth Cranford & family, Michelle Lee & family, the family of Joseph Guillory, and the family of Wanda Turk.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Cici Sharpe, Margaret Baptiste, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Betty Goode, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Eric Prichett, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Kevin Carey, Lori Lee, Jessie Austin, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Betty Cunningham, Dorothy Price, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, and Patrina Johnson.



**JEREMIAH 33:10-11**

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