

Worship Service: Sunday February 19, 2017
7th Sunday after Epiphany
Theme: "Christ the Solid Foundation on which we build"

WE GATHER – A BLESSED PEOPLE

*Call to Worship: (From: *Living Faith*, 7.3.1–7.3.2)

One: The church lives to praise God.

Many: We have no higher calling than to offer the worship that belongs to God day by day.

One: Through the preaching of the Word and the celebration of the Sacraments;

Many: In praise, prayer, teaching and fellowship, God sustains the life of the church.

*Song of Praise and Adoration: **"We Praise you Creator"**

Bop # 304

*God's Greeting (*from 2 Corinthians 13:14*)

(Our Lord has called us to worship and now greets us.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

(As God has greeted us with his peace,
so let us pass the peace of Christ to each other.

*The Sharing of the Peace (*We greet each other saying, "The Peace of Christ be with you"*)

Hymn/Song: **"Come away from rush and hurry"**

1 Come away from rush and hurry to the stillness of God's peace;
from our vain ambition's worry, come to Christ to find release.
Come away from noise and clamor, life's demands and frenzied pace;
come to join the people gathered here to seek and find God's face.

2 In the pastures of God's goodness
we lie down to rest our soul.
From the waters of God's mercy
we drink deeply, are made whole.
At the table of God's presence
all the saints are richly fed.
With the oil of God's anointing
into service we are led.

3 Come, then, children, with your burdens--
life's confusions, fears and pain.
Leave them at the cross of Jesus;
take instead his kingdom's reign.
Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them--
he alone will satisfy.
All our longings find attainment
when to self we gladly die.

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Reader 1 Holy and creating God,
 your glory is incomprehensible,
 your majesty is infinite,
 your power is incomparable.
 Your law is eternal
 and your faithfulness is from one generation to the next.
 Your love is beyond the measure of the universe,
 your mercy beyond the heights of heaven,
 and your peace passes all understanding. Amen.

Reader 2: We give you thanks for your son Jesus Christ.
 For establishing the ministry of the church through him.
 For teaching us how to live as Christ's ambassadors.
 For helping us to share the Good news of grace.
 With our lips we sing your praises,
 with our bodies we serve you,
 with our minds we seek greater understanding of you,

and with our lives we offer you our worship and our adoration.
Amen.

All: **We pride ourselves on our wisdom rather than seeking yours,
we focus on fairness for ourselves yet turn a blind eye to
justice for all, we seek revenge instead of extending mercy,
and we plot against others instead of praying for them.
In your mercy; forgive what we have been, help us to amend
what we are, and direct what we shall be.
These things we pray in Jesus' name.**

Assurance of God's Pardon:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies never come
to an end; they are new every morning. Know that you are forgiven and
forgive one another. Amen.

Response of Praise: **"Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet"** Bop #466

Youth message: **"Love your enemies"**


Youth Song: **"Jesus bids us shine"** Bop # 773

GOD SPEAKS TO US FROM HIS WORD

Prayer for Understanding

The Reading of Scripture:

Psalm 119:33-40;
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

 The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon: **"A Holy Temple Built by God"**

Text: 1 Corinthians 3: 10-11 
Theme: "A Holy Temple Built by God"

10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

21 So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all belong to you, 23 and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

Churches these days are characterised by different things.

There are churches that are owned or named after individuals

There are churches that known for the style or type of worship that they practice.

Churches are known for the ethnic or cultural group that mostly identifies with it.

There are churches that are characterised by the language that is spoken, the size of its membership, beliefs, location and many other attributes.

Whatever it is that characterise the church we cannot forget one important aspect; Christ is its foundation.

The Church in Corinth was rocked by division after division and these divisions were mainly caused by the different characters who played a major role in establishing the church there.

Although they were Christians, they were attributing their salvation to those who preached the gospel to them and led them to salvation.

Paul and Apollos had done great work but they were only representatives of Christ. They themselves were only part of the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

eκκλῆσία: an assembly, a (religious) congregation

Original Word: ἐκκλησία, ας, ἡ

Transliteration: ekklesia

Phonetic Spelling: (ek-klay-see'-ah)

Short Definition: an assembly, congregation, church

Definition: an assembly, congregation, church; the Church, the whole body of Christian believers.

ekklēsia (from [1537](#) /ek, "out from and to" and [2564](#) /kaléō, "to call") – properly, people called out from the world and to God, the outcome being the Church (the mystical body of Christ) – i.e. the universal (total) body of believers whom God calls out from the world and into His eternal kingdom.

Refrain:

I am the church! You are the church!

We are the church together!

All who follow Jesus,

all around the world!

Yes, we're the church together!

1. The church is not a building;
the church is not a steeple;
the church is not a resting place;
the church is a people.

(Refrain)

2. We're many kinds of people,
with many kinds of faces,
all colours and all ages, too
from all times and places.

It doesn't matter how gifted we are and how long we have been part of the church. The church is not merely successful because of human initiative. The church is successful because it is built upon Christ.

Christ is the strong foundation upon which the church is built.

Many will be hurt by the members of the body of Christ but it is who restores those who are broken and hurt and have been turned away by the actions of the church

The church will have to make hard decisions sometimes

1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

If the Churches foundation is anything else but Christ it is shaky and at some point will fail. A Church built upon Jesus as its foundation will never fail but will stand strong even in the midst of adversity. Amen.

Song of Response: **"My Hope is Built on Nothing less"** Bop # 349

Prayers of God's People, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

WE BRING OUR GIFTS

Work and Witness of our Church

A Time of Giving

*Sung Response: **"Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow"** BoP#79

WE ARE SENT...A BLESSED PEOPLE

*The Benediction

*Recessional Song: **"May the mind of Christ, my Savior"**

May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
live in me from day to day,
by his love and power controlling
all I do and say.

Refrain:

**May we run the race before us,
leave the sin that weighs our souls,
looking only unto Jesus
as our source and goal.**

May the word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,

so that all may see I triumph
only through his power. (**Refrain**)

May the peace of God, my Father,
rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing. (**Refrain**)

May the love of Jesus fill me
as the waters fill the sea.
let the showers of his mercy
fill the world through me.

