

**Worship on March 29, 2020 – online stream (or record and upload on youtube)**

**Order of worship**

1. Announcements
2. Song – because he lives
3. Prayer before worship
4. Scripture reading
5. Message
6. Prayer of the people
7. Benediction
8. Include “ponder upon” questions

**Announcements:**

. This recording is for the worship of March 29, 2020 because of the closure of church caused by Coronavirus Pandemic. Or COVID 19

. Hopefully, this link is available on our website.

**SONG – Because He Lives – lyrics**

Vs. 1

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus

He came to love, heal and forgive

He lived and died to buy my pardon

An empty grave is there to prove my savior lives

Chorus

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow

Because He lives, all fear is gone

Because I know He holds the future

And life is worth the living, just because He lives

Vs. 2

How sweet to hold a newborn baby

And feel the pride and joy He gives

But greater still the calm assurance

This child can face uncertain day, because He lives

Chorus

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow

Because He lives, all fear is gone

Because I know He holds the future

And life is worth the living, just because He lives

Vs. 3

And then one day, I'll cross the river

I'll fight life's final war with pain

And then, as death gives way to victory

I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns

Chorus

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow

Because He lives, all fear is gone

Because I know He holds the future

And life is worth the living, just because He lives

### **Prayer for worship**

Heavenly Father, we thank for today's worship. Because you live, we live. Because you love, we have confidence in our lives. Because you are holding us, we have strength to hang in there. Because you are with us, we can face unpredictable tomorrow. Because you cannot live without us, we thank you.

As we worship you today, stir our hearts and help us re-focus our eyes to you. Holy Spirit, give us strength to worship you, and help us know you.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### **Scripture: Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NRSV)**

7 Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

8 They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green;

in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.

### **MESSAGE: a tree planted by water.**

How are you all doing? This is the second online sermon I am delivering to you. It has been two full weeks staying home with children. I have two boys. One is 7 and the other is 5. In the morning, when they are up, they come to me asking, "Can I play game?" They start their day with games. Staying home with children is not easy for me. And it's not easy for small kids as well. Some days, they are very anxious and

somewhat stressed. Their emotional stress fills up to the top because they are staying at home all day long for many many days. So, sometimes, I take boys out to take a walk or ride bicycle. When my wife comes back home from work, I finally get my freedom from kids, not entirely, but somewhat. This is my brief update.

Today's sermon title is **"A Tree Planted By Water."**

Going through these days, I feel dry. My emotion is drying up. My physical health is not getting better but worse by staying home all weeks and taking huge amount of snacks with children. And my financial resources are not too great. We are spending a lot more than usual.

With today's message, we need to have an image. The image of you. Please close your eyes and listen to the scripture. I will read v7 and 8 one more time. Try to draw a picture of what you are hearing.

**7 – Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.**

**8 – They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.**

This is the promise of God for us. And this is the description of who we are.

In my imagination, I can draw a tree. This tree's leaves are green. It does not have to be tall or strong, but it gives the feeling **wellness**. It does not look old, it does not look young, but it looks **healthy**.

What does this image give us? A tree planted by water. The roots of the tree can

reach water. The source of life is there. Its life is sustained without any problem because it is rooted by the water.

This is us. We are planted by the source of life. We are embraced by our Heavenly Father. The strong and mighty and righteous right hand of God is sustaining us.

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent. The Lent is only two weeks left. As we stay home, how are we doing spiritually? Lent is the season of remembering God's grace and love sending His One and Only Son Jesus Christ for us to save us to the cross. God's One and Only Son Jesus Christ came to us to die. By dying, what did Jesus do? He washed us clean. He made us righteous in the eyes of God. Listen to this.

**2 Corinthians 5:21, "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."**

"For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Jesus Christ we might become the righteousness of God."

Not only in the Lenten season, this is the message we are to remember every morning we wake. "This is God given life. Today, God gave me life and he sustains my life." God gave us lives. God made us breathe. Although this coronavirus situation gives us hard time, but we are like the trees planted by water. We have source of life. If you are dried up with your financial sources, emotional sources, spiritual sources, and physical sources, God uses church, our community to help one another. Last week, I sent out hi-emails to those whose email addresses I have. I included today's scripture, and asked some prayer topics or prayer requests. I had some responses with their prayer needs. This prayer sharing is not the biggest thing in our lives, but it is not nothing. It's something. We are connected through emails and prayers. We

are making spiritual connections by prayers and we are becoming the hands and feet of God. And we are becoming the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

**Ephesians 2:21-22, “In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.”**

**MSG “Now he’s using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day – a hole temple built by God, all of us into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.”**

As a church of God, we are the parts joined together to be built into a dwelling place of God. We are connected. Like I said last week, we can encourage each other through emails, through phone calls, through text messages, and through prayers.

If you cannot find toilet paper, let me know or let your district elder know, then we can find some rolls for you. If your financial resources are too dried up, let us know, we can be your help. If you are going through emotional hard time, call me or call your elder, we will listen to you and we will encourage you and we will direct your eyes to the Lord, our ultimate source of life. Even though we cannot gather in person, remember that we are connected and we are sharing our life source, our God. Our God. He is our life source. As Ephesians says, we are connected and we are being built together to be the house of the Lord. In each of our heart, God lives. Each of our heart is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. When I do benediction, I don’t know if you notice I add one word, “intimate.” I always say “intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit.” What it means is clear. The Holy Spirit’s fellowship is intimate and it’s within us. And I pray that the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit is with you all the time, with all of us all the time. Like Doug Ford, he always says I repeat. So, I repeat, “I pray that the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit is with you all the

time, with all of us all the time.”

Now, we are the trees planted by water. We are the reason that Jesus Christ came and died for. And we became righteousness before the eyes of God. And, we are connected and we are being built together to be the house of the Lord.

That's who we are. That is who we are.

**Jeremiah 17:8 says this.**

**“it shall not fear when heat comes. In the year of drought it is not anxious.”**

Because of our identity, we can say this.

“We shall not fear when heat comes. In the year of drought, we are not anxious.”

We are going through difficult times. But, please remember who we are and please know that God is taking care of us through God's hands and feet.

If you have particular prayer requests and if you need to talk, please call. Please reach out. I will pray for you. In our church, there is a prayer chain. Cheryl takes care of it. She shares the prayer topics with me from last week. And it is confidential. I will keep it myself and your prayer needs will not be referred in my message.

So, be confident because of our true identity in the eyes of God.

Sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus, I pray for peace of the Lord be in your hearts and in your family, and in our church.

Let us pray.

Gracious Father God, we thank you for who we are. We are your beloved children. We are trees planted by water. We have sources. We have energy. We have life. All because of your love and your sacrifice, we have life. We became righteous. We became clean. And we are connected to each other to become your dwelling place. We, as your church, are standing firm and strong, not by our own power, but because of your power and your love and grace and mercy. Through us, Lord, display your glory to the whole world. And help us know who we truly are and help us be confident because of who you are and who we are. Help us get through this situation.

### **Continue to pray for the Prayer of the people**

We pray for the people who are staying at home to save ourselves and others as well. Give us strength. It's awkward to pray for your power as we stay home, but to stay home, we need you and we need your power and wisdom. To stop this virus, we need your power. Help us be wise and courageous so we know when to stop and when to act out.

We pray for our congregation. There are prayer needs. Help us remember each other and help us take time for each other to pray. Let us be connected through our prayers in this difficult time. Help us be connected through various ways, so we are reminded that we are connected as one community and to be strengthened by one another. Bless our church, protect each member to be safe and healthy. Because we are planted in you, help us know that we have resources through you. And help us take care of one another's needs as we function as your hands and feet.

We pray for the people who are going through health problems. At this time Lord, place your hands upon us. Encourage us, comfort our hearts, take away our pains in our hearts, in our emotions and minds, and in our bodies. With your love and your power, heal us. Fill out hearts with your love and power and peace. Our hearts may



be overflow with your love and let your love spread to our surroundings through us. Help our family members. Give faith in our hearts, help us know our true identity and help us know who you truly are and who we truly are. Hear our prayers and grant us our prayers, Lord.

Let us take about 1 minute to pray for the people we know personally. God hear our prayers and help those who need our prayers. Let us take 1 minute silent prayer.

### **1 minute**

Let us continue to pray. We also pray for all the people who are fighting against this coronavirus. They are short of safety equipment. Provide them what they need and let their sacrifice be thanked by others. And please help all the people keep safe distance to stop this virus. And we pray for children who cannot go to school. Help them to find out something to do other than TV. There are about two million students who stopped learning from school. Help them find suitable resources and continue their learning in this difficult situation. Also, we pray for the parents who are taking care of our children at home. Encourage us and fill our hearts with love and wisdom and patience. As we stay home and spend plenty time with our children, help us show love to our children and help us remember your love that accepted us with infinite patience. Teach us patience, Lord. Have mercy upon us. Help us practice your love to our beloved children, so they learn the true love, God's love from us.

Because of you, we shall not fear anything. We shall not be anxious for anything. Be with us and fill our hearts with you. Be the centre of our lives. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Before benediction, last like week, I want to offer a song. Let us place our trust in the Lord.

### **In Christ alone**

In Christ alone I place my trust

And find my glory

In the power of the cross

In every victory Let it be said of me

My source of strength

My source of hope is Christ alone

### **Benediction**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

And the Love of God,

And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

Be with us all, now and always.

Amen.

### **Ponder upon questions:**

1. How do I identify myself identity in the Lord?
2. How do I see myself in the eyes of God?
3. What is my spiritual source of power?
4. How can I help my community?