

## **Worship on July 5, 2020 – zoom with session and Paul**

### **Order of worship**

#### **We Gather**

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Opening song –
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Time with our children

#### **We Listen**

- Prayer for illumination (or song)
- Psalm and Scripture
- Sermon

#### **We Respond**

- Responsive song
- Prayer for the people
- Offering

#### **We Serve**

- SONG for the journey
- Benediction

#### **Ponder Upon Questions**

### **Announcements:**

. Welcome all! This worship is for Sunday, July 5, 2020. May God be with you as we worship God with all our hearts and might.

. Curbside meeting –I am available between 12-2 on Tuesdays and Fridays please email me or phone me to make the appointment. [revsoonghuh@hotmail.com](mailto:revsoonghuh@hotmail.com) / 647-208-5381. If it's too hot in the midday, let me know, then we can change the time.

. Thank you for the offerings dropped off at the office door and through Pre-Authorized Remittance. (PAR) – and you can check out website to start giving to the LORD.

. We are preparing re-opening our in-person gather worship. Before inviting everyone, we are going to try ZOOM live worship to connect to each other within our congregation. We are still going to post our video on YouTube after editing our zoom worship.

### **Call To Worship**

One: God is all mercy and grace— **All: Slow to anger and rich in love.**

One: God is good to one and all—**All: Everything God does is filled with grace.**

One: God provides help for us in moments of trouble—**All: And gives a fresh start to those who feel like giving up.**

One: Come, let us worship God! **All: Let us lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving.**

### **Opening Song – Think about his love**

### **Prayer For Adoration and Confession**

Oh Heavenly Father, look into our hearts. Search our hearts. What do we have in our hearts! You created us in your image and you breathed your own breath, but we are full of our own selves. Where have we dropped our first love! Help us turn back to you with our sincere worship and passionate longings for you.

We thank you for your love and patience for us. As we worship, please fill our hearts with your presence. Holy Spirit, stir our hearts. Don't let us stay doing nothing. Make us active and make us do something for you in our lives. Through this worship, help us rise up and live for you.

We want to glorify you and learn how we should live our lives. We come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray:

### **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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance**

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God's compassion reaches out to all creation, to us. Know that you are forgiven through Christ, our Lord. Live in peace and harmony with yourself and with all people around you and with the Lord.

Before we read today's scripture, let us pray in unison:

#### **Prayer for Illumination:**

Come as Light, O God, and enlighten our darkness.

Come as Truth, O Christ, and give us wisdom.

Come as Love, O Spirit, and shape our lives.

Come to us, Holy One, so that we may learn to follow you in all our ways.

### **Scripture:** Ephesians 6:10-18

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

14 Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.

15 As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.

*16 With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*

17 Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

**This is the Word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** : The Shield of Faith

This is already 4<sup>th</sup> piece of the armour of God. So far, we studied 3 pieces. They are the belt of truth, which we take stand on the God's truth, the breastplate of righteousness, which we take off our own breastplate, and put on the breastplate of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the shoes to protect our feet from getting hurt and to prevent becoming too tired and because shoes come in pairs, we talked about the importance of making balance and peace with God and with each other. Before beginning to talk about today's piece, the Shield of Faith, I want you to know that the main focus of these three pieces is not on the enemies, but on us. There might be direct contact to the belt, breastplate, or shoes, however, the chances are very low. These 3 pieces are focusing on building individual's inner self. On the other hand, the shield and the helmet are the main protecting armours from the attacks of the enemies. A shield protects the whole body and the helmet protects the most important part of our body, our heads. Today, we will study the shield and I am going to talk about the helmet next week.

So, shield. First of all, when you think about the shield of the ancient soldiers, what do you picture? In the movie 300, the shield is round shape and it's about the human torso size. And in the movie, Ben-hur, the shield is smaller. It's about the size of a big frying pan. But, these were not the shields Paul had in his mind. Do you know the police shield or SWAT's? Comparing to the shields in 300 or Ben-Hur, Paul's shield was larger, slightly curved and rectangular shape. And there was a large metal handle at the centre of it. Its actual size was about 3 and ½ feet tall and 3 feet wide. Therefore, ancient soldiers had a great deal of protection from their enemies. Because of it is slightly curved, it was able to deflect attacks without transferring the full force of the assault to the man holding the shield. Moreover, with other soldiers, they could put the shields together

side to side to protect the whole group. At the same time, they were able to put some of the shields upon their heads to protect themselves from the arrows coming down. So, with other fellow soldiers, with their shields, they could build a strong fortress in the middle of the battle field. The protection from the shields is very crucial because these shields not only cover the whole body of an individuals, but also cover the whole group of soldiers.

So, we are here in the battle field with our shields in our hands. We already have the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, and the shoes of readiness with the gospel of peace. This shield covers all three of them. In other words, faith in God empowers the truth we have in our hearts. The Faith in God strengthens our righteousness, attitudes and actions. And with the support of the faith, the gospel of peace makes us ready to maintain the good relationships with God and with others through the peace from Jesus Christ. Then, what kind of faith is it? And what do we do with the faith we have? These are the main questions we have today.

The Bible defines faith in Hebrews 11:1 – “*Now faith is **confidence** in what we hope for and **assurance** about what we do not see.*” In King James Version, “*Now faith is the **substance** of things we hoped for; the **evidence** of things not seen.*” Confidence, or substance, is something tangible. Something we can be sure. And, assurance, or evidence, is solid proof. It's real. So, faith, by definition from the Bible, is not some blurred emotion. It's not something abstract concept. Faith is irrefutable truth. It's beyond the question. It's undeniable.

Faith. Now we know, it's tangible, but what kind of faith is it? Where does the faith come from? Romans 10:17, “*faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.*” The Christ becomes the base of the faith. The Christ becomes the foundation of the faith. The Christ is our strength, protection, passion, life-giver, and the purpose

of our lives.

Is the Christ real for us? Is the Christ tangible for us? He becomes the foundation of the truth we believe in. Which side did we choose? Jesus? or this World? Did we decide to believe the love of God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ? Or did we choose to believe the teachings of this world? Did we decide to follow Jesus or the people? Are we going to follow the stream of this world or are we going to fight against the streams of this world with the Christ in our hearts? That is the core muscle we built. That is the belt of truth.

What about the breastplate of righteousness? What are we wearing? The breastplate of our own righteousness or the breastplate of the righteousness of the Christ? The Bible says there is no one righteous on the whole earth. Ecclesiastes 7:20 and Romans 3:10. *"Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins."* BUT CHRIST. No one can satisfy the righteousness of God with our own self-righteousness. We all need to put on the righteousness of the Christ.

The shoes, how can we make the peace with God and others? Only through the help of Christ Jesus our Lord. The Christ is in our relationships with God, with people, and with everything we relate ourselves. How real is the Christ for us?

Paul connects the shield with faith. Why? Because a shield guards. A shield protects. V16, **"in addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."** In Genesis, Joseph was sold by his brothers and sent to Egypt. The story about him is Genesis chapter 37–50. God spends whole 14 chapters for Joseph's life story. When you read the story of Joseph, the same expression repeatedly appears. God was with Joseph. And he prospered because God was with him. But, Joseph was despised by his own

brothers. That's one arrow from the evil one. That hurts. And he was put to prison without doing wrong. This one is another arrow. Also, he was abandoned after helping the king's servant. Another attack for his faith. How could he still be standing firm? How could he still be guided by God? Because he believed in his dreams, God-given dreams. Because he did not give up the faith in God. Because he did not put down his shield of faith. In our lives, there are numerous attacks from the evil ones, small and big. Temptations. Doubts. I live in the apartments and the laundry room is in the basement. And we use a special card and we put money on the card. One day, when I was in the laundry room, there was no one. And I found a laundry card. I slowly grabbed it and checked the balance on the card. It had a little less than \$20. It's not a huge amount, but it's not nothing. For a few seconds, I was tempted to take it. But, I left it where I found it. And while I was putting my laundry in the washers, one lady came and asked me, if I saw a laundry card. So, I proudly told her where it was. If I took it, who can judge me? Someone lost it and I found it. If I don't grab it, someone else will. So, why don't I take it? Right? But, would the Christ do the same? What Would Jesus Do? Is this the way I should live with the life the Christ provided? Is this the life pleasing to God? Is this a life with the faith in Christ? Although it's a very small example, there are temptations in our lives so that we can despise the values the Christ has given us. If I put the shield down and took the laundry card and lied to the lady, I could have earned a free laundry card, but I will be losing my faith in Christ.

Joseph didn't put down his shield of faith when he was suffering. He was sold as a slave to the Egyptian official, the captain of the guard, Potiphar. The Bible says the Lord was with him and when Potiphar saw that the Lord was with him, Joseph found favor in Potiphar's eyes. And Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his household and trusted him.

God was with Joseph. If I say it backward, Joseph was with God too. It is God's faithfulness but at the same time, it was Joseph's faithfulness to God. This means, he did not put down his shield of faith. If I took the laundry card, is God still being with me? Yes I believe so. But, if I took the card, did I follow God's way? No. Was I holding the shield of faith to be protected by it? No.

Do we think the protection of God is always with us? Yes. Then, are we staying under the protection of God? Are we following the guidance of God? Are we holding our shield of faith up high to protect ourselves from the attacks from the enemies?

My first church teacher went to India for mission about 20 years ago. He's with YWAM, Youth With A Mission. Everyone who works with YWAM does not get salary. Instead of getting money from the organization, they are financially supported by individuals. My teacher was asking me to pray for the supporters too. Few years ago, he stopped writing prayer letters. The purpose of writing this prayer letter is to get supported in both ways, financially and spiritually. So, to stop writing this letter means to stop asking financial help from others. However, his ministry began to grow and he needed more money at the point he decided to stop writing prayer letters. He decided to trust God's calling for the mission in India. He said, *"the God I am serving is Almighty God and he knew me even before he created the whole world. He had the plan for my life. If this is true, then his sovereignty should be in every area of my life, not just my ministry."* And, about the time when he thought of this, he learned some news about pastors and missionaries who failed their ministries because of their financial usages. He challenged himself to wrestle with God with the financial resources. His ministry grew 2-3 times bigger and needed more money, but he is experiencing God's mysterious help ever since. He never experienced short of money to do his ministry nor to live on his life. How could this possible for him? Because he put up the shield of



faith with the confidence what he was hoping for. And with the assurance of things unseen, he kept his shield in trusting the calling from God. Doesn't it sound amazing? And don't we want to live like this? Do we want to experience God's presence every step we make? Then let us have the shield of faith in front of us. Make decisions in the Lord with our faith. We will live with faith. How are we using your shield of faith today? Is our shield laid down beside us? or are we holding our shield of faith in our hands? Hold up our faith and be strong and be bold in this world with many many troubles, doubts, and temptations, distorting our relationships with God and people. I hope and pray that all of us can take up our shield of faith and extinguish every attack we experience in our lives.

**Let us pray.**

God of power and might, thank you for your words. Thank you for your promise of protection. Lord, we come to you with our little faith. Let this word be engraved in our hearts and be magnified through our lives, so that our faith can grow in you and grow with you. Make us strong enough to take up our shields of faith and guard ourselves as well as the people around us.

Thank you for being with us always. Let your presence in our lives be tangible. Help us to make your presence real and practical. Help us use our faith in trouble times and help us live our lives up to your calling. We want to experience your plans for our lives and live meaningfully before your eyes. Heavenly Father, as you are with us always, we want to be with you faithfully with our faith. Guide us our daily lives and be glorified through our lives. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

**Responsive Song** – 376 – shine Jesus Shine

**Prayer for the people.**

Precious Father God, we thank you for this worship and the faith we have in our hearts. We thank you for your love and we thank you for your grace. Heavenly Father, may your presence be upon us all the days we live.

We pray for the people who lost their loved ones. During this pandemic, we are experiencing very

difficult time. We cannot exercise our connectedness. We cannot embrace each other with love and care. All we can do is to think about them and to pray for them. So, we pray to you. We ask of you that you comfort their hearts. As they grieve and as they pour out their emotions, be with them. Help them remember the hope we have. You are preparing for our true home and our loved ones are there before us. It is sad goodbye, but we still have hope for reunion. Father God, fill our hearts with hope and love and peace and expectation. And help us remember our loved ones with beautiful memories and all the good moments. May your Holy Spirit capture their hearts and minds and help them stand strong and help them grieve in you.

We pray for our congregation. As the government announces stage 2, churches are opening. We are preparing to reopen as well. Give us wisdom and patience. Because there's no cure or vaccine, we are still careful to invite everyone into the building. We'd love to gather and share our love and fellowship, but help us be patient in order to protect each other and care for each other. Instead of coming to sharing in-person fellowship, help us remember each other and pray for each other.

You created the whole world and told us to be good keepers. We come to you with our sincere repentance. We did not take good care of the earth. The nature was destroyed by our lives. We talk about new norm. Wearing masks and wash hands. There are important to protect ourselves, but help us go beyond thinking about ourselves only. Help us think about how we can save the earth. And give us courage to take actions to protect your creation. Help us realize the true need of this.

We pray that through our worship, you may be glorified and may our worship be pleasing to your heart. Thank you for being our God and calling us. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

### **Offering – song and prayer BOP 292**

Father, I adore you, lay my life before you. How I love you. (Jesus, Spirit)

### **Offering prayer**

Thank you for this worship. Thank you for all the things we are provided by you. Thank you for our family and our relationships. We express our gratefulness with our gifts. We offer your time,

energy, attention, passion, thoughts, busyness, our love for you, and the portion of what you have given us. Take them all and make them yours. Make us display your honour and glory.

In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

**Song for the Journey** – In 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 often is my faith active?
2. What areas of my life I keep up the guard of faith?
3. How honest am I before myself, my faith, and my behaviours when no one is around?