

Worship on July 12, 2020 – zoom with session and Paul

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements – Adele
- Call to worship – Adele
- Opening song – BOP 496 – Thy Word is a Lamp unto my Feet
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination (or song)
- Scripture – Trevor
- Sermon

We Respond

- Responsive song – What a Beautiful Name It Is
- Prayer for the people
- Offering

We Serve

- Song for the journey - How Great Is Our God
- Benediction

Ponder Upon Questions

Announcements:

. Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us through this video. This worship is for Sunday, July 12, 2020. May the presence of God fill this hour as we worship him.

. 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 / 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's Word is a lamp to our feet; **All: and a light to our path.**

One: God's Word is made visible in Christ; **All: in him we are rooted in truth.**

One: God's Word is revealed through the Holy Spirit;

All: and lived out in our faithful response.

One: Come and listen for God's Word in this time of worship.

All: We wait in anticipation to receive the Word of Life.

Opening Song – BOP 496 – Thy Word is a Lamp unto my Feet

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

You are the light of the minds that know you,
you are the strength of those who serve you,
you are the rest of those who seek you.

God of growth,
You sow and you gather,
you tend and you prune,
you judge and you save.

God in whom we live and move and have our being,
In worship we come and pause in your presence—
to rest from our work and responsibilities,
to rest from our play and distractions,
to rest from our fears and concerns.
Receive our love and attention in this time of worship
so that we enjoy your attention to our lives in this world you love.

(In unison)

God who watches over us,
we confess it is so easy to be distracted from your truth.
Preoccupied with our own comfort, we neglect to stand up for those who suffer.
Tempted by what we desire, we fail to protect the earth and respect its limits.
In your mercy, give us wisdom to walk in your ways,
the will to seek things that truly matter,
and the grace to renew relationships with you and with one another.
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

Apostle Paul reminds us that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The Spirit of life in Christ Jesus sets us free from the power of sin and death. Know that you are forgiven and live as forgiven people, forgiving one another.

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

Prayer for Illumination:

Guide us, O God, by your Word and by your Spirit,
so that we may see clearly the way to follow you
and have the courage to live by your truth revealed in Jesus Christ. Amen.

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 Helmet of Salvation

Few years ago, my friend and I began to ride bicycle together. It wasn't planned. It was a spontaneous decision. One day, I met him near my home. Of course, I drove my car, but he rode his bicycle. O boy.. I asked, "How far did you ride?!" It took around 40 minutes for him to get to the place we met. He said that he was going to lose some weight. I wanted to lose some weight too, so I joined him. Do you know the first thing I did after I decided to ride a bicycle with him?

I purchased a helmet. I took my elder son with me when I went to Canadian Tire to get my helmet and his. We got so excited. My son put on his helmet when we went to daycare the next few days. Huhhuh. He loved his helmet. I love to ride a bicycle for all my life but I never thought of getting a helmet until that time. However, having a family and knowing how dangerous to ride

a bicycle on the road with cars, this time, I decided to wear a helmet.

Around that time, there was a news about a 36 year-old-man involved in a skateboard accident. The official said, "It was a death that could have been avoided." He fell down and got a head injury. He suffered a skull fracture and other head injuries from the accident in a skate park. He suffered few days and died. If only he put on his helmet, he wouldn't even have to make the hospital trip.

Another news about helmet. This is a positive one. An 11 year-old-girl fell down into the path of the car. She was knocked down and she was unconscious. The wheels went over her arm and the top of her helmet. She could have been killed without the helmet. A helmet saved her life.

The existence of a helmet makes a huge difference. Someone lost his life, and someone saved her life. We don't use helmets in the same way as the ancient Roman soldiers, but the function is the same. It's to protect the head. We are protecting head from bumping on some hard surfaces when falling down from bike or skateboard. And the ancient Roman soldiers used helmets to protect their heads from enemies' attack. Swords, spears, arrows, and maces. If the head is not protected, one attack will take away one's life. The other pieces of armours are important as well, but the headgear is directly connected to life and death problem.

In Paul's mind, the helmet is the life and death issue. He talked about Salvation. Salvation basically means to be saved or delivered from something. In biblical usage, salvation generally refers to deliverance from the eternal death penalty of sin and deliverance into God's Kingdom. So, Salvation is the matter of death or life. People don't die from their foot injuries. Injuries of vital organs may take our lives away but it could be healed too. But head injuries may take our lives away with the highest chance.

We have truth in our hearts, our actions are righteous, and we make peace with God and people. We live by our faith. But, if we don't have salvation, what's the meaning of having all other armours and protecting ourselves? We've been so faithful to God, but no salvation? That means there's no meaning of life. Then, all the protections lose their meanings. Life or Salvation is the ultimate goal for protection. What is the salvation for Roman soldiers? It is to go back home safely. It is to be delivered from the battle field. Then, what's the meaning of the salvation for us, Christians? Just like the definition I introduced, The Christian Salvation is to be saved from the power of sin. It is to be freed from the consequence of sin. It is to turn away from our sins and turn to God. It is switching the sides from death to life.

Without helmet, we talked about we are exposed to the dangers of head injuries and eventually to death. What about spiritually? What is the spiritual death? What causes the spiritual death? **Romans 6:23, "For the wage of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."** This is a great summary of today's message. We sinned. All sinned. And what we get is the consequence of sin. And that leads us to death. What we deserve is death! No exception. The Bible says there is no one righteous in the eyes of God. But, what is the second part? **The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.** This is what salvation! We were on the side of death, but through Christ Jesus our Lord, we received the gift of God which is eternal life. We changed the side, from death to life. This is supported by **Romans 5:8-10, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!"**

Our nature keeps pushing us to the sinful side. But, Jesus Christ through God's unfailing love pulls us toward him. This is what Romans 5 means. The helmet of salvation was put on us. But we keep trying to take off our helmets. We were set free from the power of death, but we try to go opposite way and we want to be under the power of death. That is why Paul cries out Romans 5. We have been justified by the blood of Jesus Christ. Now we have life. Don't give away our lives and don't try to be God's enemies. Know the value of the blood of Jesus Christ. He put down his life for us, for our lives we have now! This is our Salvation. This is the way for salvation. Put on the helmet of salvation and receive life. There's more good news. This is not about us doing something. But, what God is doing for us. God's just character has to do something about our sins. It's God's justice. We need to be punished for our sins! But, on the other hand, God's loving and gracious characters had to do something about us being punished and being disconnected from him. That is why Jesus Christ became the solution of these two colliding characters of God. God's justice required the penalty for our sins. So, God's loving mercy provided the most incredible substitute, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, who was willing to die in our place. To be saved, we need a Saviour. So, for the salvation, we need to put on the helmet. In other words, we need Jesus in order to protect our head, our lives.

The first public appearance of Jesus was after the temptation in Matthew 4. The first public teaching of Jesus was *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."* *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."* "So, be baptized and be saved." That was the message. Then, what is the meaning of being baptized? Presbyterians do not immerse into the water when being baptized, but Baptists do. They plunge themselves into the water fully and rise up from the water. I think that gives a wonderful image of death and life. In faith, we put ourselves to death and we rise up with the life of Jesus Christ. This means to clothe

with Jesus Christ. This is the confession that we are hopeless without Jesus. We are lifeless without Jesus. All we have in the end is death if we don't have Jesus Christ in our lives. So, we are going to die to our sinful selves, but have new life with Jesus. This is the confession from **Galatians 2:20,**
"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

Where have we been heading so far? What direction have we been heading? What has been the goal of our lives? Happiness? Comfort? Financial stability? Health? Retirement? Family? These are all for this short life. How are we planning our eternity, which we received from God as a gift? It sounds like PUN, but our head decides our direction where we are heading. ARE we heading to the same direction as God's? Are we heading to the salvation? With the helmet on, it is hard to lose life. The salvation we received from God cannot be lost because it is God given. Let us be sure that we are protected with the Helmet of Salvation. We are protected from the discouragement, despair in this world, confusion, and all kinds of temptations of evil powers. Be bold because we have headgears. We are protected with the life of Jesus!

I will end my sermon with proclamations from the Bible. **Hosea 13:14, God says, "I will deliver this people from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction?" // 1 Corinthians 15:55, "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" // Psalm 27:1. "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"**

Let us pray.

God of salvation, God of life, thank you. Thank you for giving us life. We know it cost your life to give us life. But, you willingly provided us the life, and it's eternal. We studied the helmet of salvation. It's life-saving equipment. It's you that protect our lives. Because you are for us, nothing, no one can stand against us. We are fighting the battle which we already won. We already have the victory through you, LORD. Let us be encouraged. Let us live like victors. We are winners because we are with you, LORD. Thank you.

When we live in our daily lives, Lord, help us be bold. Help us be confident because of the life we have through you. There will be many many difficulties we are going to encounter. But, at that time, remind us that the battle is already won. Christ Jesus won the battle for us already. We praise you and thank you.

As the confession of Galatians, and just like the meaning of baptism, we want to die for our sinful selves and we want to live your life which you have given us. Please lead us through the week in your presence and power. Guide our steps always. In Jesus' powerful and precious name, we pray. Amen.

Responsive Song – What a Beautiful Name It Is

Prayer for the people

God of love, we come to you with thanksgiving for your awesome presence in the midst of us. When we pray, help us to trust you as we pray. You are almighty God who listens to our prayers and loves to answer them.

In our prayer, we remember the people that are worshiping with us, protect us and let us remain in your presence, and help us love you and love your people wherever we are.

God of love, in the midst of the hatred that divides people of different nations, ethnic groups, classes, and genders, let us be bearers of love and peace. With the armour of God, let us protect your church and this world so that all people can live in your love and peace through us.

God of love, we pray for the children who are having vacation in the midst of pandemic. Let them be safe and let them grow through this time as they stay home and spend a lot of time with their parents. Let them learn from the people around them, and let them experience and enrich their lives. Fill their hearts with care and love from you and provide them wisdom and excitement for life. Teach them your words, so that they can make changes in this wounded world. And give wisdom to all the parents and give them humble hearts, so that they can lift up their children up to you. Help them to make their children ready to stand strong by themselves and let them be in your presence. In this mysterious process of parenting and relationship, be the LORD and lead our every step.

We remember those who are suffering from their loss of loved ones, sickness of body and mind, difficult situations, and relationships. God of peace, God of comfort, God of power to heal, find those who need you and come to those who seek you at this time, at this moment. Place your hands upon them and give strength to overcome. Give power to stand strong in your presence. Give confidence as your people.

We pray for our church. This pandemic prolongs too long. Help our connectedness and togetherness as one church body. Help us think of each other and help us pray for each other. We are getting ready to reopen. Help us be wise and help us put safety first. Let your church protect people and proclaim life, not fear or confusion. As we are ready to start ZOOM live worship, fill our hearts with gratefulness for the means to connect through technology. And through our worship, help us experience your presence and love for each other.

Lord, there are so many prayer need. Give us wisdom to discern what we need and what we want. Watch over us through the week we want to display the Kingdom values in our lives.

Be glorified and be lifted up through our lives, in Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: God invites us to be generous with our time, our talents and our resources so that God's Word spreads in the world and bears fruit in each life it touches.

Let us give joyfully and generously, sowing seeds of the kingdom of God.

Offering – song and prayer BOP 292

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

Offering prayer: Generous God, we bring the gifts we have to offer to you, seeds of goodness you planted in our lives which have flourished. Bless and multiply them. Help us to choose wisely how they can best serve your purposes in our church and in your world. Amen.

Song for the Journey – How Great Is Our God

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. Am I keeping my helmet on?
2. Where am I heading with my life? Is it the same direction as God's?
3. Am I being bold enough to stand strong in this world because of God given life in me?
4. What am I to do for salvation?
→ Nothing! Be in Him.