

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

### **Order of worship**

#### **We Gather**

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Opening song – **My hope is built on nothing less**
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

#### **We Listen**

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

#### **We Respond**

- Responsive song – **Christ is enough**
- **Prayer for the people**
- Offering

#### **We Serve**

- Song for the journey – **BOP 592 I, the Lord, of sea and sky**
- 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 19, 2020. Through this worship, may the Holy Spirit in your hearts make us pure and true.

. 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 trying to connect to one another through various means. We will start Zoom Live Worship. This week, session and some joined to see how this Zoom Live Worship would look like. Soon, we will invite everyone so we can see each other virtually. And this recording will be uploaded on YouTube.

### **Call To Worship**

One: We gather in the presence of God; **All: We gather to worship and praise.**

One: We gather in joy and expectancy; **All: We gather in beauty and wonder.**

One: Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening; **All: Speak your Word of life to us, O God.**

### **Opening Song – My hope is built on nothing less**

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

Creator of heaven and earth, Father God, we have our lives in you. You alone have been our help and guide through good times and bad. You alone give us the strength we need to face the challenges around us. You alone will be rest for our bodies and souls. To you, we turn for wisdom. In your presence we will find the peace and comfort we long for. Fill us with your Spirit in this time of worship. Open our minds and hearts, so that we may see as you see, love as you love, and follow your ways for the sake of Christ our Lord.

**In Unison: God who sees and knows our inmost thoughts and our thoughtless actions. The truth of our lives is this.**

**We are often impetuous and do not seek your wisdom;**

**We are often stubborn and do not practice mercy;**

**We are often arrogant and do not act with love;**

**We are often anxious and do not trust in you.**

**forgive who we have been, amend who we are, and direct who we shall be.**

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**

Sisters and brothers in St. Andrew's, Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life." As we just confessed our sins and weaknesses, it's our dedication to following Jesus. As the promise of Jesus, there will be no darkness. Believe that we are forgiven and never give up following Jesus. Amen.

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

### **Prayer for Illumination:**

God of wisdom, your thoughts are not our thoughts, your ways are not our ways. As we listen to the scriptures, stir our hearts and minds with the Holy Spirit so that we understand your desire for the world and resolve to do your will. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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 Sword of the Spirit

Have you heard of Excalibur? What is it? It is the name of King Arthur's sword. We can imagine a picture of King Arthur standing with his sword along with his other protecting armours. Imagine that King Arthur named all of his armours. His belt is called something, his shoes are named something, and his breastplate has a special name too. For example, if his shield was named Sarcatosta, will it be able to represent his whole armour? Sarcatosta could be King Arthur's favorite among all pieces of his armours. However, we won't be able to imagine King Arthur is getting ready for the battle with his shield alone. But, interestingly, Excalibur, his sword, gives us the image of him standing for the battle. This is because the sword is the only offensive item. We remember the name of his sword because it represents his readiness for the battle. His boots might have a name too, but we don't remember the name of his boots because these are not offensive weapon. Protective items cannot represent the works that need to be done. The sword is the only item we can attack our enemies. Without sword... Imagine, if we are in the battle field without a sword. For our enemies, we are just moving targets. We don't have any capacity to attack them. In the battle, we are not just waiting for them to go away or for them to die by themselves. We need to get rid of our enemies with strong attacks with our swords. King Arthur might kill people with his shield by hitting them. But, killing is not the main purpose of the shield. The purpose of the shield is to support sword, so that the purpose of the sword can be accomplished. The purpose of the battle is to kill the enemies. The sword is the only item which we can achieve the goal.

Everything else is the supporter of the sword. What is our Excalibur? This Bible should be our Excalibur and we've been studying all other pieces of the Armour of God to accomplish the purpose of standing firm. It's to win over our enemy by using the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.



The sword represents the victory. Then, we need to know what the sword of the Spirit is. The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. There's a Christian cartoon. It's very short. One man called out to God. "Lord, please talk to me." Then, instead of answering, God handed him the Bible. That is it. This man asked God to speak to him, but God answered him by giving the Bible. "Here's the answer. This Bible is enough." The Bible is enough because it's the truth of God. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1:22, "*It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom.*" So when Paul preached that Christ was crucified, the Jews were offended and the Gentiles said it is all nonsense. Jews and Gentiles were not satisfied with Christ alone. They wanted to have some special signs from heaven and some special human wisdom. But, God says to us. The Word of God alone is what we need. Let us go back to the Bible, the truth, our only offensive weapon.

The function of the sword is to cut. Listen to Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit,

joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” Sword is a big knife. What do we do with our knives? We cut stuff. We cut fruit, vegetables, meats, and paper, and erasers... all kinds of things! Sometimes, a very delicate focus is required. Especially, do you know the medical knife? Very small, but very sharp. Like the Bible says, this medical knife is able to cut very fine things like joints and marrow. And spiritual knife can cut thoughts and attitudes of the hearts. What’s the difference of the soul and the spirit? There might be very small difference, but the sword of the Spirit can make division between them. What does this mean when the knife can cut very fine things? **This means, through the knife, the core of the matter is uncovered.** The honest truth is exposed through the knife. Sometimes, we don’t know what we want or what we are feeling and what we are thinking. But, the sword of the Spirit can clearly distinguish our thoughts and our attitudes of the hearts. We don’t know our needs and wants. The Sword of the Spirit discerns our needs and wants. The truth, the sword of the Spirit, the Bible, gives us the bright light so that everything uncertain in us can be exposed under the bright light of the truth. Through the sword of the Spirit, we can have the wisdom of discernment. Enemies confuse us. What do we do about the sex education these days? What do we say about coronavirus? What do we say about racism? How do we teach the truth to our next generation? Very difficult questions. We need wisdom. There needs to be clear cut. The sword of the Spirit will give us wisdom to stand strong with the truth and wisdom in difficult matters.

Do you know why we need to stand strong in the Lord? Because it’s the happiest way possible we live as God’s people, as God’s creation. God wants us to live the best life – I sound like I am preaching prosperity gospel, but I don’t mean material things. Think about our children. Don’t we want them to live their best life? I do. Although my youngest is only about 80 days old, I still want him to live his best possible life. I want him to enjoy his infant life, fully. I want him to

have the best time wherever he is and whatever he does. What about our heavenly Father?! I believe our Heavenly Father loves us with the same heart. And do you know how to make the best life in this world? Who created this world? God! Who knows this world the most? God! Then, who has the best knowledge about life? God... And how does God speak to us?! Through the Bible!! And this is how we know what to do and how to live our lives. AMEN!? AMEN!!

Then, lastly, do we have the ability to use the sword of the Spirit? When going into the battle, who become the soldiers?

There's a battle, you, who works in the computer lap, come out and grab your sword!

You, who cook, come out and get your sword!

You, who clean the street, come and get ready to fight.

Did they do this? NO. The soldiers were trained. They learned how to put armours on them. They learned how to use their swords. They learned from the beginning, one by one, gradually. Just like we learn how to drive, they learned how to fight very slowly and carefully. How well do we use our swords? When driving, we get accustomed with our own cars. I am driving a Kia Soul. It has short front and short back. It's a box shaped car, so there is a very small trunk. I've been driving this car since 2010, so I can drive this small car pretty well. But, sometimes, I have to drive my mom's car. It's a Toyota Corolla. It's a normal shaped car with a long back with larger trunk. When doing the rear parking, I frequently make small bumps. Because I am not used to drive cars with a longer body. Once we are given the truth, the Bible, it's not enough. We need to be accustomed to it. When taking a course, having a textbook is not gonna give us A+ grade. We need to make it ours. We need to dig it and understand it. We need to digest it. We need to know what's in there and we need to have it in our hands and feet and in our lives.

It is like sharpening our knives. For example, a kitchen knife. When you want it to function properly, it should be sharpened regularly. Otherwise, it's gonna get dull. We don't get cut from a sharp knife. But, we cut our fingers from a knife that is not sharp enough. We have the truth, but we don't know how to use it, then it's not gonna function powerfully. It's not gonna give us the fully alive life. It's not gonna cut fine objects. It will lose its real power. The Bible says, the sword of the Spirit is the word of God and it is alive and active and it is sharper than any double-edged sword that can penetrate very fine things. Do we have that accuracy when we use the sword of the Spirit? When we apply the Bible in our lives, does it show the power of our Almighty God, is it inspiring and changing lives? Or is it like the whitewashed tombs like Pharisees in Jesus' time who were hypocrites? If we know the truth and don't act on it, then we are the same hypocrites.

Paul confessed his life's desire in *Philippians 1:20, "I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."* For Paul, Christ was enough. What about us? Is Christ enough for us? The Sword of the Spirit, the truth is given to us. How are we going to use this for our God-given-life? I hope and pray that we can make our lives most meaningful and we can offer up our lives as a pleasure for God's heart.

### **Let us pray.**

Our Father, thank you. Thank you for teaching us your heart. Thank you for your love and wisdom. And thank you for giving us the SWORD of the Spirit, the truth, the Bible. It is all we need and it's our life guide book. Help us have the Bible in our hearts, not just carrying the book home to church. As we spend time in your presence, we want to come closer to you. We want to be good disciples. We want to follow your ways more faithfully little by little every day. Let our swords maintain the sharpness always, so that we are awake and we are aware of your presence in our lives whether we face troubles or we experience great successes. At all times, help us remember that we are yours and we have the power to overcome everything because of you. Watch over us



and guide our steps, so that we don't fall, but walk with you. Thank you for being our God, our Father. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

**Responsive Song** – Christ is enough

**Prayer for the people**

God of Hope, thank you that we have you. We can pray to you anything we want. What a great comfort we have in you. Thank you that you are alive and thank you that you are God of this whole universe and you are all powerful. You built this world and you created us. You are all-knowing God and you are God of wisdom. No one can match you. We thank you that we have you.

We pray this time, Lord, for your churches all around the world. You purchased your church with your precious blood. Let the churches not lose the true meaning of your sacrifice. Let us stand strong and let us be powerful because that's who we are. We are with you and we have your power. Let us stand strong against untruth and speak up for your truth wisely. And give us your loving hearts so that we can embrace ourselves, each other, and others.

We pray for our families. Bless our families. It's the basic unit you gave us. Everything starts from here. Help our families walk with you and stay in your presence and power. And we pray that we go deep inside the society with your love and power learned from our families. Teach us your truth and fill us with your wisdom.

We also pray for our work places and learning places, schools. Be the Lord in our works and schools. We believe that you are the Lord of lords. Take you LORDSHIP and show it. Restore your LORDSHIP in people's hearts, especially in our daily lives in our works and in our daily learning process.

We also pray for this community and this city and this province and this country. You are KING! Let the leaders and politicians know you and let them truly bow down to you and follow your ways. Let us come back to you as community, as city, as province and country. We want to see you lifted up high everywhere.

Also, we remember the sick and the people who are suffering in their lives, especially who are grieving from the loss of their loved ones. You know our needs. Give us wisdom how to pray and give us discerning wisdom so that we know your plans for our lives. Powerful God, place your hands upon those who need you right now. Heal us. Strengthen us. Encourage us. Comfort us with your peace and love.

We also remember those who are oppressed because of their belief in you. It is truly heartbreaking that they are endangered because they believe you. Help all the people around the whole world to choose you over their country. Fill their hearts and their lives with your presence and love. Hold

their hands and walk with them. Protect them under your wings.

As we continue to worship you through our lives, let us be your disciples. Train us and guide us so that we can stand strong in this world powerfully.

We want to glorify you with everything we do, think, and speak. Be with us always. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

**Invitation to the offering:** God demonstrates such great generosity in response to our needs and requests. We are much loved. Let us share God's love with others in the presentation of our time, energy, thoughts, efforts, and gifts to the Lord.

**Offering – song and prayer BOP 292**

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

**Offering prayer:** Loving and gracious Father God, we offer you what we have. We thank you that your love is overflowing in our lives. Bless all the gifts we are offering to you and your love will overflow to meet the needs of those who cry out to you and to us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**Song for the Journey** – BOP# 592 - I, the Lord, of the sea and sky

**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 sharp is my sword of the Spirit? How sensitive am I to the Lord?
2. With the sword of the Spirit in hand, how courageous am I? Am I ready to follow the Lord?
3. Am I using the sword of the Spirit to make clear cuts?
4. What am I using my faith for? Am I display God's attributes through my life?