

Worship on July 26, 2020 – zoom with session and Paul

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Opening song – 78 This is the day
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

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

We Respond

- Responsive song – 27 As the deer
- Prayer for the people
- Offering – 661 We give thee but thine own

We Serve

- Song for the journey – 650 He leadeth me
- 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 26, 2020. In this beautiful summer day, may God restore our joy and gladness through this worship. Let us stay in his presence.

. 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.

. Last video, it was great to have Paul back. I thought it would be awesome to sing together. But, the Zoom connection was not that great. So, today, we pre-recorded music and we will play the recorded music. We are getting there. Please wait a little more, we will soon have Live Worship through Zoom. Thank you.

Call To Worship

One: Give thanks to the Lord and call on God's name!

All: We will praise our God and tell of all God's wonderful works.

One: Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

All: We will give glory to God's holy name!

One: Seek the Lord, God's strength and presence continually.

All: We will remember God's mercy and justice in worship and praise.

Opening Song – BOP#78 – This is the day

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God of the past, present and future, we marvel at the wonder of your creation.

We praise you for the blessings of this season, for gardens growing, birds singing, shouts of joy in times of play and restful evening sunsets.

Such good gifts all around us remind us of your faithfulness to us.

You promise us a life beyond anything we can hope or imagine, a kingdom marked by grace, love and justice for all.

In Jesus' name, by the power of the Spirit breathing within us,
We praise you for your loving kindness and the hope it brings to us day by day.

As we consider your faithfulness to us,
we cannot but help think about the ways we have not lived faithfully.
So we confess together:

(In Unison)

**Merciful God, we confess that we feel more comfortable with the way things are,
rather than live out the challenges we meet in Jesus.**

**Tempted by the promises of our culture,
we rely on the status quo to protect and prosper some but not all.**

Turning away from the cries of the hurting, we fail to stand up for the justice they seek.

Afraid to speak of our faith and hope in you, we remain silent and complacent.

Forgive us all the ways we let you down.

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

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ—

And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Sisters and brothers in St. Andrew's, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace. Thanks be to God!

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

Prayer for Illumination:

God of wisdom, you teach us with your love, you touch us with your mercy, and you challenge
us with your truth. Send us your Holy Spirit to help us understand the depths of your Word
speaking to us through the scriptures this day. 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.

Title: The Power of Prayer

Finally, this is the last sermon of the series. Thank you for bearing with me so far. Today, I am going to review the last 8 sermons very briefly and talk about the power of prayer. Prayer is how we can use the armour of God in our daily lives.

So, the title of the first sermon was the Spiritual Warfare. When we think about the iceberg, what we can see is only the little part of the whole iceberg. We can only see the tip of the iceberg. If anyone concludes the part he could see is what iceberg is, then he is missing the most of the part of the actual iceberg. In the same way, we live in the unseen world. We cannot see heat, wind, coldness, love, happiness, sadness, depression, pain, Spirit, or God. If we conclude what we can see is all about our lives, we are missing the deeper side of our lives. That is why Paul says our struggle is not against anything we can see and touch, the flesh and blood. Paul wants us to open our eyes and realize the actual power governing our lives. In this struggle and fight, to overcome

those unseen forces, we need to have the spiritual armour. And that is the full armour of God because we belong to God. Initially, I did not plan to add this first sermon talking about the evil forces, but I added this one last minute because it is very important for us to know why we are gearing up with the armour of God – we are equipping ourselves to stand against the evil forces, unseen power.

The title of the second sermon was “Stand Strong” – whether we fight against evil forces or against ourselves, God wants us to have good system, which can support our lives. And that system is the armour of God. After these two introductions, I followed the order of the list from the Bible.

The Belt of truth. This is our core muscle. It's the foundation of our movements. It is the foundation of our faith. Which side are we going to choose? There is the truth of God which we received by the life and death of Jesus. On the other side, there are people saying, DO whatever we want to do. They say that truth is subjective. What we feel is the truth. They neglect the Bible, God's instruction of the life. What is our core muscle? Do we have the truth of God in our hearts? Are we standing on the same side as God? How are we going to use our lives? For God or for our own fleshly desires?

The Breastplate of Righteousness. Whose righteousness do we have? Do we live by our own pride and goodness? Are we so satisfied with what we are deeply inside, our fleshly desires and our sinful nature? OR Can we confess that we need something more than what we are!? Can we confess that we are not able? What we have is not enough, so we need something better than what we are!! We need to clothe with Christ. We need to take off our own righteousness and put on the Righteousness of Jesus Christ. God is holy and he cannot be with sinners because his holy

nature. But, our nature is sinful. We need the new identity. Clothing with Christ is removing our sinful identity and replacing our identity with the identity of Jesus. That is how we get together with God.

The feet fitted with the readiness with the Gospel of peace. With the truth as our core muscle and our foundation, and with the righteousness of Jesus Christ, we are prepared. Then, we are not to stand still in one spot. We need to move on our faith journey. When we live on, it is important to make peace with all relationships. One shoe cannot do any good for us. Shoes must stay in pairs. This means we are inseparable. We are unable to be separated from each other and from God. We talked about two axis, vertical and horizontal. Relationship with God and relationship with people.

The next one is the Shield of Faith. Faith, by definition from the Bible, *“is the substance of things we hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* In other words, faith is not something very far from our lives. Faith is tangible and faith is real. We chose God as our truth and we confessed that Christ is our foundation of our faith. Faith is our confession and our willingness to believe Jesus. The Bible supports our confession that Substance and Assurance is not something difficult to understand. It is very factual and practical!

The Main question I asked was how real is Jesus to us? Is Jesus Christ real for us?

The helmet of Salvation is next. Paul is talking about life and death issue. Are we heading to the life which God prepared for us already? Or are we heading to the destruction which is the consequence of our sins. The wage of sin is death! And Paul confesses that he was crucified WITH Christ and he no longer lives, but Christ lives in him. Are we still alive in us or did we die with Jesus Christ and have the life of Jesus?? Do we live for what we love with our own natures or do

we love what God loves? What are our purposes? Our sinful nature should be replaced with the nature of Jesus Christ. Our lives we have are from God. God made his son to die for us. What does he have to give up more for us? Can we still turn our back against God who loved us with his son's life, with his everything? When we see our children suffer from anything, how do we feel?! Jesus prayed to God all night, "God, do I really have to carry the cross? Can you please change your plan?!" All night long... Moreover, on the cross, Jesus cried out to his Father, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" – My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Father God had to see his one and only Son bearing all the pain from the cross and, in addition, for the first time, and it was the only time, the Trinity was disconnected from each other. Father God had to experience the disconnectedness with his Son. And the Son Jesus had to experience abandonment from his Father, God. That is how we received our lives. How can we go back to our own sinful nature!? This is how we got our salvation. Let us walk our faith journey toward God, not away from him.

The last piece was the Sword of the Spirit. In the battle, if you can choose one piece of the armour, then what would you choose? If you plan to run away from the enemy for your life, then the shield might do the job. But, it won't last long because you cannot run away forever. But, if you choose the sword, you can attack your enemies. There is saying that "Attack is the best form of defense." All other pieces are supporting the purpose of the sword, to attack. To win the battle, the skillful use of the sword is essential. In order to do this, we need to practice, we need to be trained. Also, we must keep our sword sharp always. Otherwise, we won't be able to use it when we need it.

It was a long summary of the series. For the last few minute, let us focus on the last part. V18, "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.” After listing all the armour of God, Paul concludes his teaching with prayer. I interpret this last conclusion is the most important one. What is prayer? Basically, it is connecting ourselves to God. It is having a communication with God. But, is it the same as having a communication with your spouse or talking to your mom? No. Although our spouse or mom knows us the most, they are not like God. They love us the most, but not like God. We can connect to our spouse and mom for horizontal relationship, but God is different. Paul talked about soldiers’ individual preparation through the passage. And he includes the prayer at the last as the final conclusion. Why? When you are ready as an individual soldier or when you are ready as a group of soldiers, whose voice are you going to listen to?! We don’t want to fight without instruction in the battle. It would be chaotic. We need a commander. We need the head, who decides what to do and where to go and whom to attack! Let us go back to v18. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. “*Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests – ask God before you move, before you make decision.*” “To that end keep alert.” With this in mind, be alert. Keep in mind that you are not in control, you are not leading your life, and you are not all about your life. Be aware of God’s small whispering voice of guidance. And lastly, “Always persevere in supplication for all the saints.” In NIV, “*keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.*” Encourage each other so that you can rely upon God together. If someone goes astray, hold him/hold her and lead them in the right way. Prayer is having a guide to our lives.

My younger son, John. When I hold him he cuddles into me and lean his head on my shoulder. Sometimes, he tries to hold up his head, and sometime later, when he falls asleep, he rests his head to any direction. I have to catch his head. It could be on my shoulder, sometimes on my arm. When he does that, I think of “Leaning on our father.” Isn’t that prayer? Sometimes, we

try to stand by ourselves and try our best to balance our selves not to fall. But, our Father is waiting for us with open arms. His arms are ready to catch us, but we do not let him hold ourselves.

“Father, just wait for a second, I will do it on my own. I got this one, don’t meddle in my business.”

I live with my mother. She always asks me what she can do to help me. Still. No matter how old we are, we are still God’s babies. He is ready to help us when we call. When we are lost, when we need direction, when we need comfort, when we need strength, when we need someone to talk to, when we need a friend, when we are desperate, when we are hopeless, when we are abandoned, when we need love... God is waiting for us with his arms open. Let us make our Father catch us and hold us. The armour of God is helping us to get rid of all the hindrances preventing us to pray, to be connected to God, and to be set free, and to enjoy our true identity as God’s sons and daughters.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, it was a long journey with this Ephesians passage. We thank you for being with us and pouring out your wisdom upon us. And thank you for equipping us with your armour. You taught us how to stand strong in this world. Now we want to live out what we learned through this sermon series. We believe in the power of the word of God. We believe that you will remind us of the appropriate word in the appropriate situation. So, we can walk our daily faith journey with confidence that you will guide us and lead us.

Father God, like the example of a baby cuddles into the father, we come to your arms. Hold us fast into your arms firmly. We want to rest in your arms. With the full armour of God, make us strong and give us power to clear the way to come to you. It is the power to get rid of all the hindrances to be connected to you, Lord. Each day we live, we want to be with you. We want your presence and we want to be connected to you.

God of love, bless us with your ever-present-presence in each moment we are awake and each moment we live. Be with us, always. Thank you. In Jesus’ precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Responsive Song – BOP #27 – As the deer pants

Prayer for the people

Gracious and loving Father God, thank you for this time of prayer. We believe you listen to our prayers and you love to answer to our prayers. You care for us so much that you open the door of prayer and you want to be connected to us. What are we that you want us so much? What are we that you love us with your whole heart? Your grace and love cannot be described. And like an old hymn, “we cannot fill the ocean and the sky with the record of the love of God for us.” But, your love can be easily neglected in our daily living, but your patience for us is forever. We always fall down when we meet any kinds of stumbling blocks, but you always hold our hands and help us to get up and continue on the walk with you. You are the God of amazing love. You listen to the smallest sigh we make and you care for each movement we make. Oh God of love. Help us to understand your love.

Lord, in order to grow in you and to come closer to you, we pray for your help. We pray for this faith community, St. Andrew's. Especially, we pray for the people who are mourning for their loved ones. Fill their hearts with your love and grace. Let them be soaked with your love in this time of grief. Strengthen them and let them offer up this emotions and this situations to your hands and be confident. So that you can do whatever you need to do in their lives. Fill their hearts and lives. And we pray for our congregation with faith. Help us to trust what you are doing. As your precious church, let us be the light of this community and the salt in this world. Give strength and give wisdom to each person, so they may display your glory in their lives.

Sovereign God, we pray for all the churches around the world. Let your truth be preached on every pulpit and let it make difference in everyone's life because there is power on your words. Let the true meaning of Jesus' sacrificial blood be filled in all the saints' hearts and lives. Let the power of Christ be shown in this world through our lives. We pray for the powerful life because that is what we are. We cannot hide your power in our lives. Let us not be ashamed of the Gospel and let us boast the God we have through our lives. Thank you that we have the most powerful and amazing God. And you alone are worthy of all our praise and worship.

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ our living Saviour, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: God has blessed us with gifts and resources, signs of God's goodness and generosity. Let us share our abundance with others through our offerings, so they too may rejoice in God's goodness.

Offering – song and prayer BOP 661 vs1

We give thee but thine own, what - e're the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

Offering prayer: Loving God, you are so faithful and generous to us. We offer these gifts to you in Jesus' name, trusting that you will bless them and us, so that your goodness is multiplied to touch the lives of those in need, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP# 650 – He leadeth me

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. What is my favorite piece of the armour of God?
2. What is to be removed in my life to be connected to God more closely and intimately?
3. Any experience of God in my life helping me, strengthening me, or embracing me, in our daily lives? Try to share your God-experience with your friends or with your family.