

Worship on August 9, 2020 – zoom with session and Paul

Order of worship

We Gather

- Prelude
- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Opening song – BOP# 400 Spirit of the living God
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination (or song)
- Scripture Luke 4:14-21
- Sermon: The Mission statement of Jesus

We Respond

- Responsive song – Freedom reigns
- Prayer for the people
- Offering – BOP# 661 - We give thee but thine own

We Serve

- Song for the journey – BOP# 374 – oh for a thousand tongues to sing
- Benediction
- Postlude

Ponder Upon Questions

Announcements:

. Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us through this video. This worship is for Sunday, August 9, 2020. This life on earth is not eternal. Let us put our hope in the Lord. As we worship him and experience his presence, let our lives be filled with God.

. Curbside meeting –I am available on Tuesdays and Fridays between 12-2pm. Please email me or phone me to make an 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) system. Let us count our blessings from the Lord and express our thankfulness.

As we come into the presence of God, let us calm down our hearts and mind and focus on our Lord.

Responsive Call To Worship

One: Give thanks to the Lord!

All: We will tell everyone we meet what God has done!

One: Let us bring praise to the name of the Lord!

All: We will honour God's holy name with shouts of joy!

One: Be mindful of all that God provides for us.

All: We will remember the world of wonders God has made!

Opening Song – BOP#400 – Spirit of the living God

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Surprising and mysterious God, you come to us when we least expect it, calling us out of our routines and our plans, inviting us to follow Christ on a great journey of faith. We praise you for the many ways you comfort and guide us. In our moments of fear, you speak to us with words of reassurance. In our moments of doubt, you reach out your hand to save us. In our moments of turmoil, you bring calm to the storm. We place our trust in you this day and every day, and worship you as our Redeemer and Saviour. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and friend. Amen.

Merciful and patient God, we confess that we still live in fear and doubt, even though we have been touched by your saving grace. You call us to live with courage and perseverance, yet we give up too easily and opt for the safer route. You encourage us to be bold in our faith and steadfast in our fight for justice, yet we remain silent in the face of inequality and violence. Forgive us all the times we have let you down. Renew our lives through your mercy and grace.

This time, 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. God's forgiveness and saving grace are for everyone. Accept these gifts of God for yourselves and offer forgiveness to others in the name of Christ our Lord.

Before we read today's scripture, let us pray for the illumination of the Lord.

Prayer for Illumination:

God of wisdom, as we gather to hear your Word today, calm our spirits and still our minds so that we are able to receive the fullness of your message and respond with faithfulness and courage. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 4:14-21

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country.

¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read,

¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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

Title: The Mission statement of Jesus

The chosen passage is not the end of the story. If you can read after verse 21, the Bible describes the response of the people who heard Jesus. Yet, there is a great lesson to keep our today’s text from vs. 14 to 21, only. The main focus of the text is vs. 18 and 19 and this is the mission statement of Jesus’ ministry. After Jesus proclaimed his mission statement, he said something very controversial that caused hearers’ violent response.

First of all, let us look at the mission statement of Jesus. In v 18, Jesus clearly introduced the source of his power. Jesus was empowered by the Spirit of the Lord and he was anointed by him and was sent by him. Jesus was not all by himself like a self-sufficient man, but he was in the relationships in the Triune God. Then, let’s look at the action verbs what Jesus actually did. He was to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free. Also, the purpose of what Jesus does is stated in v 19.

It is for them to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. In other words, Jesus was sent by God and empowered by the Spirit of the Lord in order for us to proclaim God's grace and love. This is the mission of Jesus and this is why Jesus came to us. This is the reason why I stopped the story at v21 where Jesus said his reading is fulfilled upon their hearing. And I believe that Jesus would carry on his mission whether the response of people was positive or negative. This last sentence of Jesus caused the responses of people and the following verses describe the peoples' responses. This is why I stopped here. We do not need to know the responses of people when we want to carry on the mission of Jesus. We are not the people who are controlled by the people's reactions. In this world, people do not like to see a swan among all the crows. When they all sin, they want you to sin as well. Then, who would you please? Would you follow the voice of the people or your own God-given life? This is why I did not include the reaction of people. To carry on our mission like Jesus, all we need to know is the will of the giver of our mission, not the responses of others. I hope and pray that all of us can focus on the heart of God more than we care for others' opinions. We are supposed to become the showcase of the goodness of God.

However, we all know ourselves. Today's story happens in the hometown of Jesus. This means that the people, who listened to Jesus, knew Jesus from his young age. They knew who his father was, and what Jesus was like in his childhood. They had seen the process of Jesus' growing. When he was lost at the temple, they looked for Jesus with his parents. And when Jesus learned the carpentry work from his father, they watched. Like our family members know our past and our weaknesses, they knew Jesus in the same way. Would your husband or wife listen to you if you preach good lessons? They might, but most of the time, they would think in their heart, "*why don't you first live like what you are teaching now?*" We know our own sinful desires and weaknesses. We think that we are not able. We are not possible. However, read the mission statement of Jesus once more. Jesus came to set free the people who are imprisoned. If you are poor, then listen to the good news and rise up and live your life boldly! If you are captured, Jesus is announcing you to be released. If your eyes are covered, Jesus is telling you to open your eyes! If you are oppressed, Jesus set you free! This is the mission of Jesus when he was sent to us. Therefore, we are not the people to be restricted to anything. We are not bound to something. Jesus wants us to be free in spite of our sins and weaknesses. Do you have some bad relationships? Jesus says to be released from it. Do you have some sins that you cannot stop? Jesus says to you, "Open your eyes and get

up!” “Be free.” Why? What is the purpose of Jesus’ mission? Why is Jesus setting us free? It is for us to demonstrate the works of Jesus. Our weakness is like the responses of the people. How much can the reaction of people influence to the mission of Jesus? None. Absolute zero percent. Yet, still, we have our weaknesses and sins that block us to show the goodness of God to the world. That is why we need to follow the examples of Jesus!

How does Jesus carry on his mission? This is very important for us to know to live our lives up to the will of God. God has purposes for our own lives. Some of us had to give up many things to come to church. You probably miss them from time to time, but there is a reason why God called you to his family. Sometimes, this gives us hard time on trusting God and following Jesus. Yet, I hope and pray that you may believe the mission of Jesus is to be completed in your life too. Despite of the hearers’ negative feedback for Jesus, how could he carry on his purpose of life in this world? Jesus was able to complete his mission through the help of the Spirit in his life and the presence of the Triune God. The help that Jesus was received is the promise of God for us too. In our life circumstances, there will be moments that we cannot continue our life or we won’t be able to find any meanings in what we are doing. In those times, let us remember the mission statement of Jesus. Let us come back to it. He has a clear purpose and the guidance from the Triune God. As our role model, I hope that we will be able to follow the life of Jesus.

This is such a good news for us that Jesus’ mission was not achieved by his own power and might. His mission was completed by the help of the Triune God. First of all, God the Father gave a mission to Jesus. Because God gave it, it is meaningful. God, who created the whole universe, knows each one and everyone of us by our names. And he has his own plans for our lives. He wants us to live meaningful lives, fulfilled lives. Let us live up to the calling of God. Do not be hesitant because of our weaknesses and sins OR, others’ eyes. It is important to consider other people and build healthy relationships. However, the relationship with God should be our first priority. Let us live a life that puts God in first place. The Holy Spirit may empower us and guide us. When resurrected Jesus ascended to heaven, he promised the Holy Spirit, so that he can be with us and help us. Amen? Amen! The Holy Spirit is with us right now. I want all of us to believe it. Let us become sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit. In every moment of our daily lives, he speaks to us. Let us be sensitive to the Holy Spirit by opening every possibility. In addition, Jesus also becomes our great help. Jesus set the example to follow. Although he had to experience

hardships in accomplishing his mission, he did not give up because of setting the good example for us. From the example of Jesus, we can learn what the most important value of life is and we can be encouraged because Jesus knows our hearts and pains because he experienced it. Let us humbly open ourselves up to God, so that the Triune God can move within us freely. The mission of Jesus was to set us free, so that we can proclaim God's goodness. Now we are freed people, the people of God. I hope and pray that all of us can proclaim the grace and love of God all through our lives. Now go with the power of the Triune God and the affirmation of our mission for our lives, so that we can demonstrate the freedom God provides for us. My question to you as I finish today's message. What is your mission statement?

Today, let us sing our Responsive song first. Then, I will pray for this message and the prayer for the people together.

Responsive Song – Freedom Reigns

Let us pray.

Father God, you gave us freedom. But, we constrain ourselves to a lot of things. You said that all is done. We believe that everything we need is done by you on the cross. But, we are greedy. We have our own selfish and fleshly desires because of our sinful nature. Clothe ourselves with you. Like the confession of John the Baptist, "you must increase and I must decrease," let us have this in our hearts. Thank you Jesus so much for your mission statement. Thank you for coming to us. Thank you for washing all our sins and deliver us from the consequence of our sin. And thank you for providing us freedom. Help us display your love and grace. Give us courage and faith, so we follow you with all that we are. With your precious blood, you gave us life. With our lives, what should we do? All through the week, help us ponder upon this question. What is my mission statement for this God-given life?

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

Let us continue with the **Prayer for the people**

Merciful God, thank you again for the privilege that we can call you Father and we can come to you. Thank you for making us clean and free. With the freedom you gave us, we want to use it for your purpose. Give us wisdom and courage.

We pray for Lebanon, Beirut. There was a huge explosion and there are many died and injured. Have mercy upon them and restore what they lost. We believe that you are the God who are with the mourn and the hopeless. Let the people there have strength to stand up again.

We pray for the summer safety. Many are away enjoying this weather as usual, but this time, with Coronavirus around. It is getting better, but still, it's there and there's no cure for it. Protect us from this virus. And we pray for the people who are suffering from this virus. Have mercy upon them and with your healing power, heal them.

We pray for the school. They are planning to open it like the usual as before. Many are worrying. Everything is not certain. Protect our children, the next generation. They need education, but they need to be protected as well. Give us wisdom how and what to do for them. We don't even know how to pray for the school year. Talk to us what to pray and what to do. Help them to keep their masks on. Help us teach them and make them prepared. Protect all the teachers and staffs and students as they gather together when the school is open.

We pray for our church. I came here as a new minister and a long time passed in this Pandemic. We want to connect. We want to gather. We want to have fellowship. But, this might not be safe in this situation. So we ask you for wisdom. As we prepare reopening, help us be safe and be connected. Let the strong connection of the Holy Spirit be with us and bound our hearts together and help us stay in your love and the love for each other. We pray for the people who are in need of prayers. If they are in distress, give them light and strength. If they are sick, place your healing hand and with your power and love, heal them. If they are mourning, be with them. Embrace them. And let their hearts know that you are holding them, firmly. If there are people who are seeking you, open their eyes and ears and hearts, so they experience your presence. As we worship and seek your face, grant us your presence and speak to us and change our hearts with your Holy Spirit. We rely upon you. Be with us. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: God gave us freedom to use whatever he provided us. With thankful hearts, we express our love for the Lord. With a grateful heart, let us give to the Lord.

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: Precious God, gracious God, merciful God, faithful God, we thank you for this time of worship and offering. At this time, we want to show you our love with our time and body and focus along with our financial gifts for you. Receive our hearts and love for you and use us in your ways. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP#374 – Oh for a thousand tongues to sing

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 mission statement?
2. Where am I constraining myself?
3. What do I need to accomplish my mission in this God-given life?