

Worship on August 16, 2020

Order of worship

We Gather

- Prelude
- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Opening song – BOP 416 – Blessed Jesus, at your word
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination (or song)
- Scripture Genesis 3:20-24
- Sermon: God of separation

We Respond

- Responsive song – Father in heaven how we love you
- Prayer for the people
- Offering – BOP# 661 - We give thee but thine own

We Serve

- Song for the journey –BOP 461 – Be Thou my vision
- 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 16, 2020. We are living in a Chaotic world. As we come to the presence of God, let us find peace and encouragement from his love and grace.

. I am going to have a vacation for two weeks from next week. I am away from tomorrow till August 30th. Robert Revington will lead worship on August 23rd and Robert Hayashi will lead worship on August 30th. I will be back on Tuesday, September 1st.

. Curbside meeting –From September 1st, 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: Let the peoples praise you, O God!

All: Let all the peoples praise you!

One: Let the nations be glad and sing with joy!

All: For you guide the nations upon earth.

One: let the people praise you, O God!

All: Let all the peoples praise you!

Opening Song –BOP 416 – Blessed Jesus, at your word

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Welcoming and generous God, you make all things new. We are glad to be together in your presence today wherever we are physically. You invite all people into your fold to receive your blessing. Justice and right relations have their source in you. We are filled with joy to be counted among your children. As we gather, make us one in worship and thanksgiving. We lift our voices to proclaim your all-encompassing love. May our praise join with the praise of all your people. And reach the ends of the earth, for you are our Saviour and our hope.

Merciful and wise God, in your presence we confess that we have not lived as you taught us to live. Forgive us those times we have not welcomed others into our lives; and those times we have avoided others because something about them made us uncomfortable. Forgive us the ways we have judged unfairly. Reveal to us our own prejudice which separates us from others and our failure to seek your goodness in those who seem different from us.

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, while it is true that we have all sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God, in Jesus Christ, our sin is forgiven. Be at peace with God, with yourself, and with one another.

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

Prayer for Illumination:

God of all the ages, as we gather to listen to your Word today, silence the thoughts that distract us. Open our hearts to hear the challenge and the comfort you offer us in the name of Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Scripture: Genesis 3:20-24

20 The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

21 And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them.

22 Then the Lord God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever."

23 Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken."

24 He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

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

Title: God of Separation

How are you reading the Bible? Anyone reads the Bible every day? I hope and pray that you can read the Bible daily and listen to the voice of God for you, every day.

What do you think why we read the Bible?

It is to listen to God's voice and to know what God wants from us – because we are made by God.

We are on Genesis 3 today. Up to this point, God created the heavens and the earth.

After the creation, the first thing God did was, "Let there be light." God created the Light. Then, right away, God created day and night.

On the second day, God separated water from water and separated water and expanse.

On the third day, God made vegetation **according to their own kinds**.

On the fourth day, God separated lights on the sky. The greater light was called SUN and lesser light was called MOON, and there were other stars.

On the fifth day, God made different kinds of fish and birds **according to their kinds**.

On the sixth day, God made the wild animals **according to their kinds**, the livestock **according to their kinds**, and all the creatures that move along the ground **according to their kinds**. And God made human.

God made human in different way and did something special. He breathed his own breath, making human in his likeness – i.e., human has the characteristics of God, life of God, and likeness of God.

And God commanded human not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Why? Is it to test our faith and obedience? And God put the tree in right in the middle of the garden where they could see it from every where they went. Let's leave this question for a moment.

I listed all the things happened in the Bible when God create the world. What was my focus when I said it?

It was separation. God's creation was all about separation. Genesis 1:1-2. "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters." (NRSV) NIV, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

God created the light in v.3. Before creating the light, what kind of stage was this? The world was formless, dark, void, empty. There was CHAOS. Everything was mixed together. Nothing was organized. Light and darkness was mixed together. Water and the land were mixed together. I am not too sure how it looked, but God needed to separate all the things to make it good.

Light and darkness, water and space, different lights, all kinds of vegetables, animals according to their own kinds. – this means, every different kind was to stand alone. They are not to be mixed with each other.

And there is a separation between human and other creatures. God handmade us and breathed his own breath, his own life. He didn't do it to any other animals, or stars, or sea, or anything. Humans are separated from all other creatures of God.

I like to shave my head. I didn't do it often because my wife does not like it. And if I shave, I look like a Buddhist monk. When I was in Korean church, they really do not like me looking like a Buddhist monk. However, when I am not working at a church for a long time, I shaved my head. Not just because it is the most convenient way for me, for a lazy person like me, but also I have something to remind myself by keeping my hair short or none. I have a scar on my left head. I had a brain surgery in 2003. I was not conscious for about 5 days. When I woke up, I was not able to speak and I was half paralyzed. My left body was totally paralyzed. When I smiled, my right-side lip went up, but left side stayed still. Doctor said I was almost dead. The percentage of my recovery was less than 10%. And if I am recovered from it, with 10% possibility, the doctor meant that I survive with some kind of disability. Something like, surviving but like half-paralyzed was what he meant. Yet, do my left side seem to be paralyzed? I was pretty famous in the hospital as a miracle man.

So, the scar on my head means something to me. It reminds me that God healed me. What I mean by that, God is my God and Lord and I am not my own god or master. God is the Creator and I am only his creature. This is my personal reason to shave off all my hair. If you see me without hair, think that I need the reminder of God's grace.

Back to the Bible. God created all things. Light, sky, space, water, trees, birds, fish, animals, and human. There was separation. If you think carefully, the creation gradually becomes better for human to live.

After creating all the things, all was ready. And God said to human, Gen. 2:16-17, “But the LORD God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden – except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.” NLT

This means, I am God and you are not. This is mine and not yours. You are not the master of all the creation. You are to take care of my creation but you are not a lord of my creation. This is the separation between God and human.

What does this separation mean? Separation is to make things different. This tells us that God and humans are different. In other words, God is holy and we are not. The meaning of holiness is to be different. Because God is different, we can believe in God.

I will explain what this means. Everyone here is not that different. Somewhat different age, different interests, and different lifestyles, but no one is too great so she or he can solve all our problems. No one is a different being here. Everyone was born and everyone will die. And no one lives forever. However, God is totally different. He was not born, he didn't have a beginning, he never dies, he created everything, he knows everything and everyone. He loves each and everyone of us. He loves us with his whole being. We don't even know what this means. Because we can't love anyone with our whole being. If God is the same as human, how could he die and rise again? If he is the same as us, how could he create all things? That is the difference between us and God and this is our God. That is the HOLY God. Different from us, sinless and all-powerful.

But, God wants us to be holy. Holy is to be different. Then, whom should we be different from? Different from sin, and from the consequences of sin, from the people who is driven by sinful desires. That is, THIS SINFUL WORLD. What do people pursuit these days? Money, pleasure, power. This world teaches us to have more, to buy more, to eat more, and to enjoy more, because you deserve it. Do we deserve all these good stuff? With our sin, with our sinful desires, and with our selfish minds? What if we stand before God? Who sees all our shameful moments and fleshly desires?

Adam and Eve, the first human couple, they disobeyed God. They ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve realized that they were naked. With that realization of their nakedness, what did they do? They approached trees, twisted some leaves, and they tried to cover their bodies. To them, God made clothing from animal skins. And God kicked them out of the garden of Eden. God could have lived with them in the garden of Eden but God cast them out. Why?

God clothed them with leather – good stuff. God forgave them and took care of their needs. Then, why did God have to drive them out of the garden?

That's the consequence of sin. God is holy, so that he can't be with sin. So, the loving God has to do something with sin. God forgives, but we have to take the consequences of our sin.

But, God does not abandon Adam and Eve, the human kind – that's us. God blocked the tree of life because human has sin already, so it's better for us to die and get a new life. God prevents us to live eternally with the consequences of sin and our sinful desires. Instead, God plans to give us

new life through Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:23 states, “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

The consequence of sin is death. But, God has the free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. When God forgave Adam and Eve, he provided clothing from animal skin. How did God get the skin? This means, God killed some animal and shed the blood for the wage of sin of Adam and Eve. That was to satisfy the wrongdoings of sinners. That's the atonement. God reconciled the fallen human through the life, suffering, and death of Christ Jesus. That's what it means.

Is there anyone who's not sinful?

But, at the same time, is there anyone who doesn't have the opportunity to have Jesus?

Sometimes, I know it's hard to believe. Sometimes, it takes time. Sometimes, it takes efforts. But, the door is open for us to restore the broken relationship with God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ask God for our weak faith. I always ask God to help my unbelief. I am so used to do all things in my way, with all my power. But, that's not faith. Living in God's way is the true faith. That's why I sometimes shave off my hair, to remind myself of the grace and love of God for me.

Even though it's Stage 3 and many things are allowed, we are still separated from each other because of this virus. What does this separation mean for you? Of course, by this time, people are gathering, our church will open soon, and stores are open. But, this is the first time we experienced the Lockdown. And we are separating ourselves from each other. Think of this. How are we separating ourselves from sinful desires? What is the meaning of being holy in my life? Again, holy means different. What is my calling at this time, at this place, and with this kind of surroundings? How do we stay holy in our daily lives?

Let us pray.

Father God, we know that it's impossible to be sin-less. We learned that you are different from us. You are holy and we are not. And we are to die because of our sin. But, you gave us Jesus to give us sin-free-life. Thank you. Help our unbelief and give us courage to trust you and live with you apart from what we are used to. Holy God, we are so full of ourselves. Help us, and fill our hearts and minds with you. We are going to live in this world. As we relate ourselves to this world, help us to be the salt and the light, so that we can display your goodness to our surroundings. Help us and be with us. In Jesus precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Responsive song – Father in heaven how we love you (Soong)

Prayer for the people

God of love and grace, we worship you and we praise you with all our hearts. We thank you for this time of prayer. We remember your great deeds in the Bible and from our past experiences. Listen to our prayers and grant our prayers Lord.

We pray for the people who are having their vacations. Protect them safely as they travel back and forth. Guide their trips and keep them safe and healthy, especially from the coronavirus. Refresh their hearts and minds and bodies, so they recharge themselves and gain energy to face the future.

We pray for this Pandemic situation. Everywhere we go, there are difference from the pre-pandemic life. We repent before you. All we can hand down to our children is the broken world, with all kinds of scary virus and pollution everywhere around the whole world. You told us to be good stewards, but we failed. Have mercy on us. Give us wisdom to protect your world. Give us strength to become good stewards. Let us together try to recover the nature surrounds us. Give scientists humble hearts and let them kneel before you and help them to develop the cure for this virus.

We also pray for schools, students, and teachers and staffs. Because the virus is still there, some say it's dangerous and the other say it's manageable. And in confusion, parents are worried.

Lord, we ask you of the grace and wisdom. Protect the students, teachers and staffs.

For our congregation, we pray for your wisdom and protection as well. As we are preparing reopen, guide each step we will make and help us faithfully ask you before making any decisions. We want to confess that you are the Lord and you are the Head of the church through all the process we are going to take. We want to glorify you through all we are going to do. So, Lord, be with us and help us as we will gather in person again. We also pray for the people who are coming to you for their prayer needs.

Let us pray for the people whom you know in silence for about 30 seconds.

(pray for the people)

Lord, we remember those whom we know their prayer needs. Stretch your hands upon them, speak to their hearts, and let them experience your love and grace in their lives through your presence and power.

As we continue to seek your face through the week, let us experience the connectedness and intimacy with you. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: With deep gratitude for the healing and freedom that Jesus offers, let us present our offerings to God. Through our gifts, may that healing and freedom be shared in God's world in Christ's name.

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: O God, we place our hope and trust in your loving kindness, leaning on you for all our needs. Because we want to praise you with more than mere words, we bring our gifts to support Christ' mission in the world. Bless these gifts and use our energy for your good purposes, so that all the world knows your loving kindness. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 461 – Be Thou my vision

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. Holy? What does it mean for me?
2. What are the differences between God and me?
3. How does my chaos become good?