

Worship on September 6, 2020

Order of worship

We Gather

- Prelude
- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination (or song)
- Scripture Proverb 25:13
- Sermon: Facing Uncertainty

We Respond

- Prayer for the people
- Offering –

We Serve

- 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, September 6, 2020. I am going to talk about Facing Uncertainty today. May God hold our hands and lead our steps in this difficult time.

. Thank you all for your prayers during my time-off. I had great time! Now, time to get back!

. Curbside meeting –Tuesdays and Fridays between 12-2pm. Please email me or phone me to make an appointment. revsoonghuh@hotmail.com / 647-208-5381.

. Thank you for the offerings. 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 minds and focus on our Lord.

Call To Worship

Our call to worship today is not responsive. It's from Isaiah 48:17, "This is what the Lord says – your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go." (Let us pray.)

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Gracious and loving Father God, we praise you and thank you. You called us here to be with you. When we turn away from you, you still wait for us and you come to us and pound our hearts to call us back. Thank you for your patience and your love. As we worship you, help us truly come before your presence with our whole hearts and help us offer all that we are as we enjoy your love and grace.

God of love, we are sorry. We know your lavishing love for us but we take it granted. We abuse it. Because you will never give up on us, we go our own ways. We pursue our own selfish desires and fleshly ambitions. Forgive us. Turn our eyes back to you. Make us pure and holy. Restore your image and likeness you installed in us when you created us. Let us breathe with you with your breath.

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

Isaiah 55:8 declares this. "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the LORD. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine."

God is far beyond our imagination. His ways and his thoughts are not like ours. God is different from us. That is why we can trust him. If he is like us, selfish, greedy, self-centered, judging, and many other characteristics of ours, then we won't be able to trust him either enjoy his love and grace. God is different from us. That's how we can trust his forgiveness. Dear friends, listen to this good news. Our Holy God forgives us and loves us with his whole heart.

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

Prayer for Illumination:

God of wisdom and love, we are standing before your words. Open our hearts and eyes, so we may listen to your words. Speak to us Lord, your servants are listening. Reveal yourself through your words. In Christ Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Proverbs 25:13

Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest are faithful messengers to those who send them; they refresh the spirit of their masters.

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

Title: Facing Uncertainty.

To be or not to be, that is the question. This is from Shakespeare's Hamlet. He is asking the question whether he should continue to live or end his life. We use this when we face decisions, important, but difficult to decide.

To be or not to be, that is the question.

To send children to school or not, that is the question.

To attend in-person worship or not, that is the question.

To eat out or not, that is the question.

In this time of Pandemic, especially, when there are so many things are opened, it is very hard to make decisions.

We are going through CHAOS, very difficult time to make decisions.

There was a grand-mom who always cut off the end of the ham. Her daughters did the same. And now, their daughters do the same. One asked the reason why? "Grand-mom, why do we cut off the end of the ham?" She answered, "because the pan was too small." At least, for three generations, cutting off the end of the ham became their tradition. But, until, one asked the reason why, everyone was following the tradition without knowing the reason of their action. Traditions. Rules. Customs. Regulations. Sometimes, we follow them but we don't know the reason. In this chaotic time, what kind of traditions, rules, customs, or regulations do we observe without giving any thoughts and questions?

Today's text declares, "Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest are faithful messengers to those who send them; they refresh the spirit of their masters." This is NRSV.

Listen to some other translations.

Good News Translation – A reliable messenger is refreshing to the one who sends him, like cold water in the heat of harvest time.

NIV – Like a snow-cooled drink at harvest time is a trustworthy messenger to the one who sends him; he refreshes the spirit of his master.

Contemporary English Version – A messenger you can trust is just as refreshing as cool water in summer.

Imagine that you are working in the hot field. It is a harvesting time. Temperature is over 30 Celsius degree (°C) and it's very very humid. Your whole body is wet with your sweat. Hot! Wet! Tired!

Exhausted, but too much work to do. But if I hand you a cold ice water, how awesome would it be? How much do you think you will enjoy the ice water?

Today's one verse is about making master's mind satisfied, like the ice water in a hot day.

When I introduced the cutting off the end of Ham tradition, the reason why is not very clear. But, when you know the reason why, it feels gratifying. Now you can choose whether you will observe the tradition or not.

This Coronavirus Pandemic makes us make decisions, difficult ones. And nothing seems satisfying.

What do we do? Parents, was it easy to make decision whether you send or not to send your kids to school? My wife and I talked about it over a month and we made our decision in last minute. We had to let the school know our decision by certain date, so the school can group students. Hard decision and we asked so many people and no one likes their decision. Neither do we.

If you feel not too great, somewhat sick, what would you do? Would you go to the hospital or would you take good care of yourself and rest at home? Either are not that good.

You really crave the certain menu from a certain restaurant, dine-in is allowed. Would you go or not? Everyone seems to go out and enjoy the weather, would you go out and mingle with crowds or stay away from people?

What kinds of decisions would you make? What is the foundational source of making decisions? Habits? Traditions? Customs? Or regulations?

Which traditions are you observing and why?

When I go in the park with my boys, we meet a lady with a dog. The name of the dog is Anubis. It is the name of an Egyptian god, god of the dead. I thought it was very funny and I asked the lady why Anubis? Her answer was simple. Her son named the dog. Her son was going to name the dog Anubis or Veer, which means a monster dog. God of the dead or monster dog. Wow.

But, she let him name the dog. This, to me, inspired me that she has a deep trust for his son.

It reminds me John 6:29, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

This John passage is talking God sent his son Jesus. So, the work of God is to trust Jesus.

But, it's mom's job too. It is to trust his son. And if I extend the meaning of John text a little further, the work of God is to trust us as well, like the mother who let her son name the dog with a strange name. We make mistakes. We fall. We have difficulties, all the time. But, God who trusts us is with us holding our hands and helping us.

Also, John 17:6-11, this is Jesus' prayer to the Father God, "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in trust that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not

asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one." His prayer continues, but we get the idea of Jesus' deep love and trust for his disciples. "Father God, my disciples are from you. They know that I am from you, God Father. I am leaving them soon. Protect them. They are not perfect yet, but be with them and lead their steps."

Like us, the disciples were not perfect. They made mistakes and they were weak. But, Jesus had faith in them. God gave the disciples to Jesus. They believe in God whom sent Jesus to them. Jesus trusted God's perfect will, that is why Jesus was able to trust his disciples.

God gave us faith to trust him. We might think that we believe God by ourselves, by our will, by our own determination. But, that's no no. Without God giving us faith, we cannot believe in him.

Therefore, the faith we have is not our faith, but it is the faith of God trusting himself. God created us in his own image, he gave us his likeness, and he gave us his life.

Philippians 1:6, "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." God started and he will complete the good works planted in us.

Do we deserve this trust of God? Are we worthy of God's trust? God pours out his trust upon us. God pours out his grace upon our daily lives.

As we face uncertain tomorrow, let us remember this promise of God and think of the ice water on a hot day. Let us have the hope that we satisfy the trust of God for us.

I will conclude today's message with 2 Corinthians 4:7-10

"But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies."

Let us pray.

Gracious Father God, you created us in your own likeness with your life. So, we are like you. We reflect you. Many times, we forget about you and live with our own might, but that is not what we are supposed to do. Whether we walk straight path, or wild valleys, we want to hold your hands and walk with you. Because of your trust, we can face uncertain tomorrow. In this difficult chaotic time, as we step forward, help us be with you. And help us remember the ice water on a hot day. We desire our lives be like the ice water for you. We want to please you with our daily lives. Help us and be with us. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Before the prayer for the people, let us sing to the Lord.

I love you Lord and I lift my voice to worship you O my soul rejoice

Take joy my king in what you hear May it be a sweet sweet sound in your ear.

Prayer for the people

Almighty God, we thank you that you open the door for us to communicate with you directly. What a great privilege we have! Thank you. Your precious blood is our firm foundation. We put our hopes and trust on you alone.

As we pray to you for our prayer needs, hear our prayers and grant us our prayers.

First of all, we pray for our church. We are preparing for reopening. We are nervous, but also excited to meet our sisters and brothers. But, still, there are potential danger. Help us love each other and help us follow all the safety measures out of love for each other. Give us wisdom and patience so we can come back to the in-person worship experience with safety. There are many who miss the intimacy with you in our church building and the fellowship sharing each other's life. Have mercy on us and grant our prayers.

We remember and pray for the people who are mourning and recovering from their loss of their loved ones. Fill their hearts with peace and love. Hold their hands and make them stand strong again. Also, we pray for the people who are experiencing difficulties in health problems, financial problems, relational problems, and many others. Open their hearts and minds and bodies, let your power and love surround them and start healing them.

We also pray for our city. There are news about shooting and stabbing. Too much hatred, too much anger, too much stress, everywhere. Heavenly Father, we come to your presence with bitter hearts. We come to you with repentance. Because we, as the followers of Jesus, did not show difference, the world did not have role model to follow. They did not have opportunity to come to you because we were like the salt without saltiness. We were light, but hidden under a basket. Father God, make us bold and live like the real followers of Jesus.

Summer is almost ended. Everyone is preparing a new beginning, with uncertainty. We need you the most in this time of hardship. Reveal yourself to us and help us show you in our daily lives. Be praised and lifted up through us. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: Giving to the Lord is the expression of our gratefulness to him. Also, it's our confession that all we have is from God. Let us show and express our thankfulness to him.

Offering – song and prayer (Paul's music)

Offering prayer: Thank you. We thank you for who you are, Lord. Thank you for this opportunity to show our love and gratefulness for you as we are offering our time, focus, energy, busy-ness, along with some parts of our possessions that you provided for us. Accept all that we are offering to you and use us and make us in your will. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

As we face this uncertain everyday life, let us remember the trust of God for us. Let us prepare our life for him like a glass of ice water for 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. What was the most gratifying experience in my life?
2. Who do I trust the most? If God trust me like that, how would I feel?
3. God trusts me as much as he loves me. Would I willing to please God with my life?