

Worship on September 20, 2020

Order of worship

We Gather

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

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination (or song)
- Scripture Deuteronomy 6:1-9
- Sermon: Why Love God?

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 20, 2020. May God's presence fall upon you as you worship God today.

. To meet and talk to me for the pastor care or any prayer requests, please email me or phone me. revsoonghuh@hotmail.com / 647-208-5381.

. Thank you for your offerings. God is with you as you go through this hard time. Remember God and his love. May his love and grace be with you.

. Next week is Presbyterians Sharing Sunday. Our Moderator, The Rev. Amanda Currie prepared the message, so we will listen to her message to all the Presbyterian Churches. In that way, we are more connected to our Presbyterian National Church.

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

Call To Worship

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.”

(Let us pray.)

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Almighty God, you are the Lord. You are the Creator. You alone are God.

We come to you in praise and worship. We come to you with our love, with our whole hearts and with our best efforts. God of love and grace, we adore you for who you are. You poured out your love for us. We thank you. You died for our sin, We thank you. You raised from the dead. You overcame the power of death. We praise you. You are worthy of all our praise and worship.

We received such great love! We received amazing grace. We received the true life. But, we are still in love with our sinful nature. We still turn back from you. We still have desires to embrace our selfish ambitions. Now, realizing our reality, we come to you with humble hearts. We kneel before you with repentance. We come to your presence because of your forgiveness. Make us holy and pure. Make us strong, so we may live for you. We want to live for you. We want to glorify you and we want to display your great image through our lives. Be with us and hold our hands as we walk toward you.

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

"As far as the east is from the west, that's how far, he has removed our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103:12) God, with his great love and amazing grace, he forgave us. He pours out more grace and more love for us. Believe this good news and live with him.

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

Prayer for Illumination:

O God you are our God. Speak to us and teach us your words. Give us wisdom, so we may learn what you have in your heart. Lead us and guide us. In Christ's name, Amen.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

1 Now this is the commandment – the statutes and the ordinances – that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy,
2 so that you and your children and your children's children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long.

3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your

might.

6 Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.

7 Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away when you lie down and when you rise.

8 Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead,

9 and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

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

Title: Why Love God?

What is love? What kind of pictures do you have when you think of love?

If you love someone with your heart, you want to express your love to that person.

You want to make sure that the person knows that you love that person.

And these are the examples of expressions when they love.

Care, hope, Romantic, unselfish, laughter, hugs, forever, heart, embrace, tenderness, faith, kisses, excitement, matching, truthfulness, intimate, beautiful.... Etc.

Love... imagine that you love no one. Or no one loves you. You want to say something about your passion or plans or great experiences you had, but there is no one you want to share. You know a great restaurant, but you don't want anybody to come with you. OR, No one cares for you if you are too tired or sick, no one listens to you when you need someone to talk to.

Whether we notice or not, we are surrounded by love and trust of other people.

The Bible says about love. The highest love, the ultimate love is to love God.

It's not a recommendation, plea, or suggestion, but it is a COMMANDMENT. When the Bible talks about loving God, it uses imperative. LOVE God. TEACH your children loving God.

In the Old Testament times, God was not like Care Bear. He does not have any friendly image. But, he was some distant, separated, and judging.

The Old testament God is scary. Always appears with fire.

But, a lot of Old Testament Bible verses command us to love God.

Also, the New Testament also has a lot of references of loving God.

Then, here's the question. What is the reason that we need to love God?

What differences are there if we love God?

The Bible teaches us that God created us. And God made us the highest being among His creatures. We are to take care of the entire God's creation. Also, God wants to communicate with us. He provides us what we need and he makes sure that we know what we are given.

For example, when God created the first people, Adam and Eve, God came to them and gave a tour of the world. "Here are the trees and fruit, you can eat them." "This is water, if it's too deep, it's dangerous, don't go too deep." "This is a cliff, it's very very high. You cannot fly, so do not jump from here."

And some other references, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God came in their dreams, and taught them where to go and what to do. When Jesus was born, God came to Mary to let her know what would happen. God appeared in Joseph's dream – Mary's husband – and let him know the plan of God. The Old and New Testaments, there are many examples that God communicated with His created people.

First, why God created us? He was too bored?, and he needed a toy? Or he needed someone to love and care, like we have pets? No, he has in a perfect fellowship within the Trinity. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have the perfect union and they don't need anything.

THEN, why did He create us?

To show His love.

I always pray that I want to glorify God. But, is it really happening in my life?

My sinful, and selfish life cannot give glory to God. in fact, my life is a disgrace for God.

God didn't know when he created me and plant me in this world?

He knew that I would be weak and sinful. But, still, he allows me here. Why?

He wants me to know his love.

Same for you.

He wants all of us to know his love for us. We know we are weak. We know we are not perfect. We know we are selfish. We know we don't really glorify God. We know that we don't deserve God.

To answer our question of the day, why we have to love God, we need to know who we are and who God is.

So, we are like this as I just described.

Then, what's God like?

God is the Creator of all. God is the Sustainer of all things. God knows everything and God sees everything. God is everywhere and God is with everyone. God is powerful, God can do anything he wants. And God loves us. God cares for us. God wants us.

New Westminster Shorter Catechism is the summary of Christian belief. This has about 100 questions about Christian faith. The first question is this.

"What is the chief purpose for which man is made?" i.e., "Why did God create us?"

The answer is..

"The chief purpose for which man is made is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever."

To glorify God – how? I just said it's impossible. So, we quit trying?

No. to glorify God means to love God, to please God. That's my interpretation of glorifying God. With my life? With my heart? – This selfish and sinful?? I am not able to show God glory with what I have in me. To glorify God is to reflect God's goodness. It is to become like God. It is learning God's characteristics gradually, day by day, little by little.

And what is to enjoy God?

It is simple. To be like a child. If you can remember when you were like 3 or 4 years old. You are totally depend on your parents. If you cannot remember, think about any infant baby. Every day, these days, my family stay together. John, my second son, who's just turn 6 year old, calls me every moment. "Do this. Do that. I need this. I want this. I want that." All these times, he's enjoying me. God wants us to do that. God, I want this. I need that. I need YOU. God wants us to want him. God wants us to call him!

Why is God doing that for us?

Why am I providing everything for my children? Because I love them. Sometimes, it's bothersome, but I still care for them with joy and love, with patience. :)

God would be the same. He loves us, so he wants us to bother him. He wants us to ask him what we need like a little baby.

The Bible teaches us that God first loved us. That's why we are to love God.

It is absolutely right.

God loved us first. I just told you what we are like and what God is like.

Look at ourselves, and look at God.

That God? Who created everything and who are all powerful and all knowing!

This me?? Who is sinful, selfish, and weak.

That God wants our love. Wow.

V7-9 7 Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away when you lie down and when you rise. 8 Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, 9 and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Simply speaking, remind yourself to remember God. Remember God. Teach your children to remember God. WHY?? To enjoy God. To have communication with God. To have relationship with God. To talk to God what they need and what they want and what they are experiencing. WHY?? Because that God cares for all people. THAT God cares for THIS Me. Remember it.

When my little boy John wakes up, I am usually not in the room with him.

Then he shouts, "ABBA." As soon as he opens his eyes – no no – before even he opens his eyes, he calls me. Whenever he has some consciousness, he calls me.

God wants us to do the same. Whenever we are awake, call God. Because the most amazing God loves us with all of His heart, and with all of His power, with His everything! And he wants us to enjoy HIM.

Let us pray.

God thank you for calling us. We turn back from our own pleasures, but we come back to you to enjoy you. Like a little child, we want to rely on you. We want to call you honestly. Because we are told to be independent, we maybe forgot to be like a child. We were told grow up, grow up, so we grew up too much, and without ability to stand alone, we try to stand alone independently. Fix our hearts. Help us come back to you. Yes, we need to grow among others, but we need to be like a child before you. Help us be like a little baby before you, so we can ENJOY YOU in our faith. Abba Father God, we will call you, answer us whenever we call upon you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Let us continue to pray for the people of God.

Prayer for the people

Father God, like a little child, we will call upon you for our needs. Please listen to us and please answer us and help us understand your answer and give us faith to trust your answer.

We pray for this situation. The confirmed cases are increasing. As the weather becomes cold again, we cannot distinguish the cold and the coronavirus. We are worrying about the second wave. We are not so prepared for this. Have mercy on us and make us strong to overcome this difficult time. Keep us safe and healthy.

Schools are open. People are worrying. Protect them. When students and teachers are at school, help them follow the safety rules. As they travel, protect them also. When teachers are preparing teaching materials, give them wisdom and as they control and take responsibility of students, give them courage and love and patience. As students study at school or at home, give them wisdom and help them learn, as they prepare their future. Let them dream your dream and let them have you in their hearts.

For church, we are preparing reopening. We pray for every step of preparing reopening. Help us gather together again to experience intimacy of worshiping you together and connectedness through fellowship. There are people who will show up and there are others who will stay home. Give us understanding hearts and love, so we embrace each other whether we come or stay home. Whatever we do, and wherever we worship you, let our hearts be sincere and honest. We also pray for elder election. We need more elders to participate your ministry on our church. Help our congregation and help all the members so we give our thoughts and prayers on this election, and let the suitable elders are elected for your church. Be with those who are having difficult times right now with their emotion, healthy, situations, and other matters. God, you are the comforter and you are the healer. Place your hands upon them, and heal them in their sickness and their difficulties.

Heavenly Father God, thank you for pouring your love and grace. Let us enjoy you in our daily lives. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. This time we live is the most uncertain

time. Let's remember God and his power and his blessings in our lives. Let us offer up our offering to the Lord.

Offering – song and prayer – In Christ Alone

Offering prayer: In Christ alone, we have our life. In Christ alone, we are safe. In Christ alone, we are forgiven. In Christ alone, we love you, Lord. We are offering our time, energy, focus, family, relationships, and money to you. Accept them all and use them as you want to use us. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.

Now, it is the time for us to go back to the world. Let us enjoy God, enjoy his love and presence in our lives, so we may show difference to the world and let them know who our God is.

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. Do I love anyone other than myself? Think of the reason why I love her/him/them.
2. Have I been loved by anyone like I would like to love someone? By whom? How?
3. What do I expect from God? And how have God treated me so far?