

Worship on October 25, 2020

Order of worship

We Gather

- Prelude (Paul T.)
- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination (or song)
- Scripture Genesis 6:5-8
- Sermon: Noah found favor in the sight of the LORD.

We Respond

- Prayer for the people
- Offering (Offertory music – Paul T.)

We Serve

- Benediction
- Postlude (Paul T.)

Ponder Upon Questions

Announcements:

. Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us through this video today. This worship is for Sunday, October 25th, 2020. This is Reformation Sunday. Let us offer our most sincere worship to our God.

. 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. OR, I am visiting each congregants these days. If you want my visit, please let me know.

. Thank you for your offerings in this difficult time. May God bless you and keep you safe.

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 is from Psalm 35, "You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me, take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God." (Let us pray)

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

My Rock, my Fortress, my Redeemer, my Refuge, my Saviour. That's who you are and that's why we worship you and praise you. Gracious and loving Father God, with our whole being, we adore you. We lift your name. You are worthy of all our praise and honour. Thank you for saving us and thank you for calling us your children and calling us into your presence. In humble expectation, hoping you will surprise us here and refresh our readiness to serve you.

God, gracious and merciful, holy and healing, you know our hearts, the times we have truly loved one another and those times when we merely tolerated each other. You know our minds, the times we have truly focused on you and the times when we pursued our own purposes. You know our stories, the times we have followed you faithfully and the times we went our own way. Forgive our wavering discipleship and half-hearted service, and renew our commitment to live lives marked by your grace.

This time, we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray: (The 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, we are forgiven people, set free from our past failures to make a fresh start this day and every day. The Holy Spirit empowers us to love God and to love others. Thanks be to God for such everlasting mercy and grace!

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

Prayer for Illumination:

Lord God, send us your Holy Spirit as we listen to the scriptures this day. Open our ears to hear your Word speaking in these words. Open our hearts to receive your Word and respond in love and service for Christ's sake. Amen.

Scripture: Genesis 6:5-8

5 The Lord saw that the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually.

6 And the Lord was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

7 So the Lord said, "I will blot out from the earth the human beings I have created – people together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

8 But Noah found favor in the sight of the Lord.

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

Title: Noah found favor in the sight of the Lord

Today's title is from vs. 8, "Noah found favor in the sight of the Lord."

Today is Reformation Sunday. We remember German monk and theologian Martin Luther's brave action on October 31, 1517. His 95 proposals were nailed on the doors of the Wittenberg Castle church. It's well known as Luther's 95 Theses. The basic ideas of Luther's proposal can be summarized in two. One, God intended believers to seek repentance and that faith alone would lead to salvation, not any of human deeds. Two, church's selling indulgence is wrong. 93 theses criticized this second idea.

Here is the brief background. In the middle ages the Catholic Church taught that salvation was possible through "good works," or works of righteousness, that pleases God. Their intention might be good, to promote good deeds from believers, but the salvation comes from God alone. Meanwhile, the Catholic church's practice of granting "indulgences" to provide absolution to sinners became increasingly corrupt. Indulgence selling had been banned in Germany, but the practice continued. This is the trigger. In 1517, a Roman Catholic member, Johann Tetzel, began to sell indulgences in Germany to raise funds to renovate St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. To build a church building, the church did wrong. They taught false way of salvation.

That is why Luther suggested theological debate by proposing 95 Theses. However, his academic proposal quickly spread and became the foundation of Reformation. As Protestants, we celebrate Martin Luther's brave action because the church was very very powerful at that time. As a theologian, you don't want to bother the people who can support your future path or ruin your future. You want to find favor in their eyes. But, Luther did not. He had to pursue the truth and tell the truth of God publicly. Surely, Luther was a person who desired to please God with following the truth of God.

Today's main idea is to please God. Luther did not please himself nor the people who's in power. His purpose was to protect the truth of God by confronting the wrongdoings of the church, even though they were super powerful.

In today's Bible passage, there is one person who found favor in the sight of the Lord. That is Noah who built the famous Ark. Many would remember the story of Noah's Ark. This is one of the favorite Bible stories of my kids as well.

In preparation, I thought of this Sunday's sermon. Reformation Sunday. What would be the most fitting sermon topic today? This is the beginning question of today's worship.

Some of you may know that I am doing home visitations now. I was waiting for church's reopening to meet you, in person. But, this prolongs too much and I cannot wait to meet you. So, wearing my mask on, keeping the safe distance, and staying outside, I began visitation. I am planning to meet everyone possible. If you want my visit to your home, outside, of course, then

please let me know. I will call you to make the appointment. Starting from about two weeks ago, I met few people already. This was a little announcement. But, it's related to today's sermon.

So, with the question of what to preach on Reformation Sunday, I went one home and we happened to talk about Noah. And the talk gave me great inspiration.

God found favor in Noah and he told Noah to build the wooden ark. Noah built the ark for a long time. The Bible does not specify the exact time, but theologians think the duration of the building the Ark was 120 years, 100 years, or less than 70 years. I looked up some resources, but I do not want to decide which one to believe. How long it took is not my concern. "It took so long" is good enough for me. Noah spent so many years to obey God's command. I googled the duration of building Noah's Ark. And I found an interesting question and answer.

How long would it take to build the ark today?

18 months: The entire ark project took 18 months to complete. The attraction opened earlier this month. To meet the deadline, additional workers and specialists were required. Tompkins said about 1,000 people worked on the project overall, with more than 300 people working on site at one time. (This was from July 31, 2016.)

In States, there is a place to visit called ARK ENCOUNTER. They reproduced Noah's Ark in Kentucky. The question is about ARK ENCOUNTER.

So, building the ark today takes a long time as well. Thinking about Noah's family building the Ark, it would take long~~~~~ time.

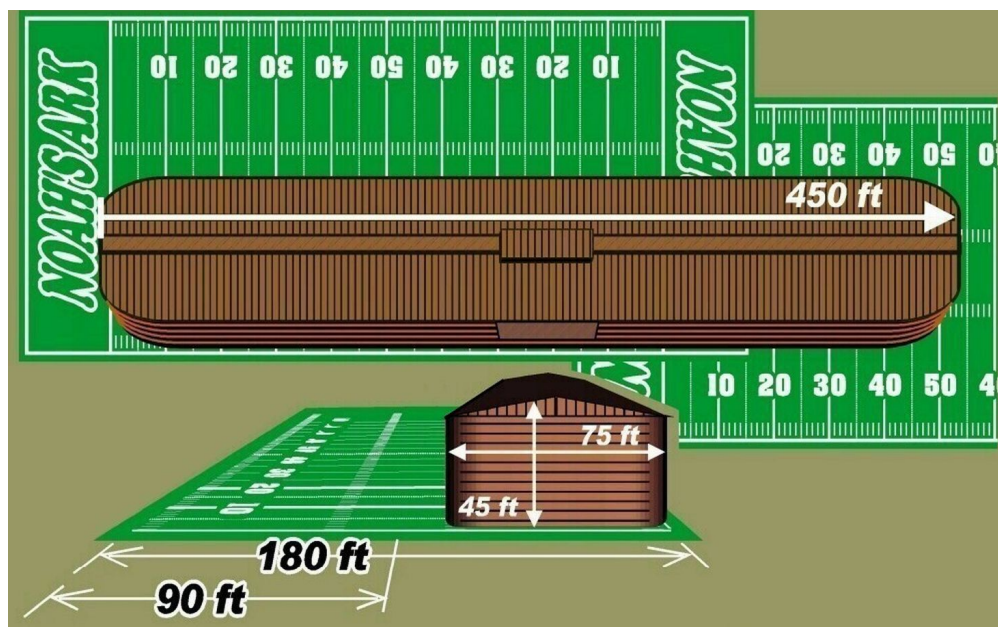
Noah's Ark is very strange. The Bible does not tell us where it was built. Was it built by the water or was it built on the mountain?

NOT TOO SURE.

I believe that if the information from the Bible is not exact, we don't need it. The Bible records very specific things such as the size of the Ark. But, it does not tell us where it was built and how long it took. The size is important, but rest of the information is not.

Now, imagine that you are Noah. God came to you and God told you to build a big boat. It's like building a football stadium. How many people built the Ark? Noah, his three sons, and four wives. The work never ends.

But, Noah and his family built the ARK finally. In other words, faithfully, slowly, steadfastly, firmly, and continuously, they obeyed God with their lives. This is the size of the boat comparing to the football field.



Now, imagine that you are the neighbour of Noah's family. One day, the family started building a huge boat out of no where. What would you think? You would mock them, make fun of them. Why do you waste your life building this useless big boat? Would it float anyways? Where are you gonna use it?

Let's think about our lives. What is God speaking to us today? What is he asking us to do?

Who do we try to please? Our families? The people in our jobs? Church people?

WHY? WHY? To live happily? To be in peace? To make more money? To maintain our jobs?

YES they are important. But, what about God? How important is our God, for us?

Today is Reformation Sunday. Reformation was needed because Martin Luther wanted to make the wrong things right. The whole point of Reformation is to make a wrong thing right and truthful. This is within God's people. Reformation was needed within God's people, just like us. So, today, in our church, in our family, what areas in our lives, do we need Reformation to please God?

Before prayer, I will sing a song. Let us come to God as we lift up our hearts with these lyrics.

TO BE PLEASING YOU – Maranatha

Lord I want to live my life to please You. I bring my heart before You to remold
Make me a vessel fit for honour that I might shine for You as sparkling gold
To be pleasing You, Pleasing You, This is all I really want to do
To be pleasing You, Pleasing You, This is all I really want to do

Lord I lift my heart in full surrender, all that I hold, dear, I give to You
Purify my heart and make me holy. So I might walk the way that's pleasing You
To be pleasing You, Pleasing You, This is all I really want to do
To be pleasing You, Pleasing You, This is all I really want to do

Let us pray.

Gracious and loving Father God, we want to please you with our lives. That's why we need your grace, your love, your provision in our lives. We enjoy your gifts and many times, we end up enjoying your gifts in our lives. Today, we are determined that we want to live our lives pleasing you. Our happiness is important. Our families and jobs are important. But, you are more important than anything in our lives. We want you to be happy because of us. We want to make you proud of us. We want to please your heart. Give us courage and wisdom in our steps. Thank you for loving us and thank you for what you have done for us. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Let us continue to pray for the people of God.

Prayer for the people

Heavenly God, You did not want heaven without us, so you brought heaven down to the earth. Our sin was great, but your love was greater! We praise you and we honour you! We lift you up with all our hearts. This time, we are lifting up our prayer needs and the people we are praying for. Listen to our prayers and look upon us.

We finally opened the elder nominating envelopes. We are praying for the new elders. Give us mercy and give us courage to commit our lives for you. Make us strong and courageous to trust your lead and your guidance as the new elders commit themselves in this precious ministry of yours. Bless our church with the new elders and open their hearts so they accept the elder role. Enhance the session and pour down your wisdom discerning our future steps. Help each member of our church. Let us live in your light.

We pray for the home visit these days. Some had one already and the others are looking forward to it. I am very excited to meet congregants in person. Help us to be safe all the time and help us learn that you are the Lord of our church and you are the provider of everything. In every meeting, be present amongst your people and show your love and grace. May all the meetings be inspired by your Holy Spirit and may these meetings help restoring the relationship with you. We really

want to please you and we really want to put you in the centre of our lives.

US election is coming very soon. Lord, have mercy. Make the nation follow you, not outwardly, but with sincere hearts. Give wisdom and courage to the leaders. May the leading country glorify you and please you through their decisions. "In God we trust," they engraved their faith confession on money. Let their faith confession come true in their lives. We also pray for Canada. Give us peace and help us stop this corona virus. Help the needy in their physical and mental and financial and their family situations.

Loving God, in difficult situations, we look upon you. Hold our hands and walk with us. In Jesus' strong name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: When we gather together as God's Church, we enjoy the gifts of so many other followers of Jesus, offered to him over so many centuries. Now our gifts join theirs so that God will be praised and Jesus' love spread in this generation and those to come after. Let the offering of the Lord be received.

Offering – Paul's music

Offering prayer: Generous God, you are both faithful and fruitful as you embrace each generation of your people. Bless our gifts and make them fruitful beyond our imagining in the work of your kingdom. Keep us faithful in our generation so that the inheritance we have received in Christ will continue in generations yet to come. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. Like father, like son. When we find the resemblance from our children, we are happy. In the same way, like God, like us. How is that? We are the image bearer of Christ. Let us show our Christ-likeness in our world.

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. Who do I care the most in my daily living?
2. What is the one thing I can do to please God today?
3. What is God's plan for my life?