

Worship on November 8th, 2020 Remembrance Sunday

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
- Scripture John 15:12-17
- Sermon: I Chose You

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, November 8th, 2020. This is Remembrance Sunday. Let us remember the sacrifice and love of the men and women who have been standing up for the peace. Also, let us remember our Lord Jesus Christ and give our hearts to him.

. 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 use our gifts and us in his best ways and his best timing.

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 from 1 Peter 2:9, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." (Let us pray)

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God of yesterday, today and forever,

You are the God of every generation, and your love endures forever.

You have protected us during difficult times, for your compassion is everlasting.

You have shown us the path to truth and life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

We give you thanks, O God, that you are always near.

In this time of worship, we declare our love and loyalty to you,

and offer you our service in prayer, in praise, and in practice,

this day and every day,

our one true God, whom we know and love as Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.

Sheltering God, we need your protection and redemption in these complex days.

Yet, so often we fail to serve you in sincerity and faithfulness. Today, we come before you to confess our shortcomings, confident in your mercy.

We confess that we are often short-sighted, caring more about ourselves today than about future generations. In our selfishness, we have harmed the planet and perpetuated division among nations and neighbours. We ignore the needs of those around us, especially when caring for them would require us to change our habits or our hearts. Forgive us, O God, and show us ways to transform our lives to reflect our commitment to Christ more fully.

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, Christ died so that we might live. Through his undying love, we have been forgiven. Rejoice in the forgiveness God offers us. Be at peace with God and yourself, and make peace with your neighbours, for Christ's sake. Amen.

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

Prayer for Illumination:

God of wisdom, we seek insight and understanding from your Word read and proclaimed this day. Move in us by your Spirit to open our hearts and minds to receive your message in the scriptures and respond in faithfulness. Amen.

Scripture: John 15:12-17

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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

Title: I Chose You

The title of today's message is "I chose you." When pondering upon today's passage, Jesus no longer calls us servants, but friends. We did not choose him, but he chose us. That's why I titled today's message, "I chose you."

Today, we remember the sacrifice and service of men and women to keep the peace and freedom with their lives. Many fought in the wars. Many had to lose their lives, and many had to live without their loved ones. Also, many had to suffer from the trauma from being exposed to extreme situations.

Remembrance Day. Every year this time around, many people wear Poppy to remember and honour the sacrifice of people who fought the war and sacrificed their lives. What do you think or how do you feel when it becomes Remembrance Day?

When I was in 20's, my old church went to the First Nations Reserve. They are known as Indians, Aboriginal people, or Native people. They are not Indians – it is wrong to call them Indians. And it's most honouring them by calling the First Nations. We prepared Bible studies for all generations, and Summer Camp for kids. We usually used their schools or community centres. As I ran around with kids running summer camp in the gym, I saw a banner. There were names and years. There was a list of people who fought in different wars. War World I and II. For me, it was too old and it was only in the textbook. But, there was Korean War and many names under it. My grandparents experienced the war. My parents were born immediately after the Korean War. In the remote place of the First Nations' Reserve, in 1950, how did they go and fought in Korean War? Why care about them? It felt somewhat differently from studying wars in the textbooks. From then on, whenever I visited different First Nations' Reserves, I could find banners with names who join the wars. Sometimes, I found 2 or 3 names for Korean War. I had thankful heart for them, only because I was able to have some kind of person connection. I am sure that many of us who are worshipping God now can think of someone who fought the wars and experienced wars.

Thinking of Iraq and Afghanistan, Remembrance Day is no longer past, but it's present tense. Remembrance Day is not remembering past events any longer. Then, what does it mean to us?

In Canada today, there are 750,000 veterans, 250,000 with disability of some form. Many are experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, PTSD. I am reading a book about Trauma these days. Soldiers PTSD is very very serious. Their sacrifice was great, but left them great consequences.

What can we learn today, thinking about Remembrance Day? It is great love and sacrifice serving as soldiers. I have few friends in Army. One of them shared his experience of taking taxi. After he arrived his destination, he was about to pay. But the taxi driver refused to receive money and thanked him for his service. What a great way to honour and respect for the sacrifice and love!

We remember the love and sacrifice of soldiers because they protect us so we can enjoy our peaceful lives. On Remembrance Day, many of you have heard pastors preaching **John 15:13, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."** It is true that soldiers serve with their lives. But, I also remember one more person, Jesus Christ.

In Sanctuary, right in the middle of the pulpit stage, there is a table. We call it Communion Table. There is a line engraved, "Do this in remembrance of me." This is what Jesus said to his disciples on the night before he was crucified, the famous Last Supper. He broke the bread and gave to his disciples, saying, "This is my body broken for you." And he poured out the wine and said, "This is my blood poured out for you." Do this in remembrance of me.

I found remembering the sacrifice of soldiers is very similar to remembering the sacrifice of Jesus. They both laid down their lives for our lives. They both provided us peace. They both allowed us to enjoy our lives. They protected our lives.

So, it's like every Sunday is our Remembrance Day for Jesus while we remember Soldiers once a year.

This is today's scripture in The Message version.

This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father. 16 "You didn't choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won't spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you. 17 "But remember the root command: Love one another.

Loving one another is why we are chosen by Jesus Christ. Loving one another is the reason we are saved. Loving one another is why Jesus calls us friends, not servants, because friends share plans and friends understand each other.

Soldiers were able to sacrifice their lives because they have love for the people whom they want to protect. They have families, they love wives, kids, husbands, parents, and friends.

Jesus sacrificed himself because he loves us. He wanted to give us life. Because of him, we have peace. Because of him, we have opportunities. Because of him, we were made clean and righteous before the eyes of God. Because of him, we have reason to live. Also, last part of today's scripture, Jesus appointed us. He told us go and bear fruit. Because we have life, because

we were saved, because we have opportunities, because of him, we are to bear fruit, that will last. And that is to love one another.

Jesus says to us, "I chose you. I chose you to love one another. I saved you so you will bear fruit, everlasting fruit, by loving one another."

On this Remembrance Day, please remember and respect their determination and sacrifice and love for the people. And remember that we are chosen by Jesus Christ and we are to do one thing, very similar to what the soldiers did and what Jesus did. It is to love one another.

Jesus chose you so you can love one another.

Let us pray.

Loving Father God, thank you for the people who sacrificed their lives for their love ones and their future generations. That is how we enjoy the freedom we have and the lives we have now. Thank you.

As we remember the sacrifice of the people, we also remember the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Because of him, we have life. Thank you. And you called us and you chose us to teach love. It is extremely hard to love because it is not our nature. Change our natural tendency and build your character in us. We want to fulfill your heart. Help us love one another. By loving one another, we want to bear fruit that lasts eternally. Give us wisdom and discernment, so we learn how to love others with what we are and what we have.

Thank you for choosing us. Be glorified through our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Let us continue to pray for the people of God.

Prayer for the people

God, our Creator and Redeemer, in this solemn season of Remembrance, we are aware of how much war has cost the world you love. In spite of fighting between nations and neighbours, you have come to us in Jesus Christ, carrying no sword, calling us to serve as peace makers.

We remember and pray for the people who fought wars in the past. Thank you for their sacrifice. Thank you for their service. Thank you for the peace and freedom we have now. Let us be grateful all the time as we enjoy the things we are given. We pray that you give peace and honour on them for their solemn life giving sacrifice for their countries and for their future generations. Also, we remember the love and service of soldiers who fought in the wars in present days. In fear and hurt, they are exposed daily. Protect them and watch over their life, and health physical and mental. Also, we remember those who are preparing to serve and love their neighbours and countries. Equip them not only with the skills, but also with the heart of yours, so they can truly give their love to others. As we remember them, let us be humble and thankful for what we have.

We pray for our church. It is very very hard to maintain our faith without fellowship with sisters and brothers in you. Help us maintain our connections through various means such as visitation to the outside of each other's home, telephone calling, emails, text messages, and prayer. Holy Spirit, we believe that we are one body as your church. We are called by you and we are being built as your church everyday, together. Help us remember who we truly are and what we are capable of.

As hands and feet of yours, we are still strong. We are serving our community through Martha's Table and through our daily service in our surroundings. Even though our ministry became limited because of the Pandemic, help us have energy from you as we stay distant from each other and stay closer to you. Though our worship and service, be glorified and be pleased.

We remember those who have hard times now. We offer them up to your hands. Embrace them with your love and care. Sometimes, we don't know what we want and we don't know what we need. Be with us and guide us. Heal the wounded hearts and heal the pain of bodies and minds.

In this difficult time, stay close to us. You are God of Immanuel, God with us. Thank you for being with us. Help us always be with you as well. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: On Remembrance Day, we mark the costly offering of lives given for the sake of others. What we offer today is small in comparison, but with God's blessing, our gifts can also make a difference for the sake of others—in Christ's name. Let the Lord's offering be received.

Offering – Paul's music

Offering prayer: Generous and gracious God, we have received so much from you in Christ and in creation. Bless the gifts we offer this day so they will speak of your love for the world in all its detail, and for people in all our diversity. May our gifts touch the need around us in the name of Christ who makes us one. Amen.

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. How can you love one another? How can you respect the people around you? I hope and pray that you can love the people around you as you respect soldiers. And, let us be grateful to our Lord Jesus Christ for choosing us and let us bear everlasting fruit for him.

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 would be one thing I can do today to love one another? In other words, how can I love the people around me today?
2. What is the one thing to bear fruit by loving one another?
3. How can I love myself, so I can love others also?