

Worship on April 18, 2021

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP # 357 – How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination – BOP #64 – Be still and know that I am God
- Scripture: Genesis 6:5-8
- Sermon: Noah's Life Before God
- Communion

We Respond

- Offering (invitation and prayer first)
- Offertory Hymn – BOP # 292 – Father, I adore you

We Serve

- Benediction

Ponder Upon Questions

Announcements:

- . Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us live right now and those who are worshipping God through this video. This is Sunday. April 18th, 2021. Let us worship God with whole hearts. There will be the Lord's Table during today's worship.
- . Two pieces of good news from our members. 1) Patti McLaren came back home after heart attack on April 5. Thank you for your prayers for her and please continue to pray for her and her family. 2) Mahdi's refugee claim was accepted. Thank you for your prayers and support.
- . For Bible study with discussion questions, please stay after the worship. We will share and pray for each other.
- . If anyone wants to volunteer to participate in worship, please let me know.
- . Thank you for your support with your gifts. May God use us and our gifts for his kingdom.

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

Responsive Call to Worship

One: We gather with joy, for Easter brings us new life.

All: The Risen Christ is with us wherever we go.

One: Love breaks all bonds and unites us in hope.

All: Christ has defeated death. Let us rejoice and be glad!

One: Come and worship with hearts full of praise.

All: O God, receive our grateful Hallelujahs!

Praise song – BOP #357 – How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God our Maker, we come before you this day, giving thanks for all the wonder in your creation: from the small faces of babies, blooming flower in spring warm weather, and diligent move of animals. These details lift our hearts to praise you. So let the details of the story of the Risen Christ lift our hearts this day, that we may greet a new week as an occasion to discover you in our midst, making all things new with the springtime of your Spirit.

God our Redeemer, in raising Jesus from the dead, you showed us your power to defeat all that brings fear and sorrow to our lives. In his resurrection, Jesus promised to be with us always. Yet we confess we are sometimes uncertain about your presence, unsure if we can trust the promise of resurrection for ourselves. Forgive us when we struggle to trust your goodness for us. Forgive us when we miss the signs of your love in our midst.

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 in Christ at St. Andrew's, Scripture tells us that there is a time for every matter under heaven. A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance. In confessing our sins to God, we have offered God our tears of regret. Now is the time to rejoice in God's mercy: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. In Jesus Christ, we have time to make a new start. Thanks be to God.

Prayer for Illumination: BOP #64 – Be still and know that I am God

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."**

SERMON: Noah's Life before God

Today's sermon title is "Noah's life before God."

I titled today's message this because of the one question. My one question of this week is, Who's going to be today's Noah. So, with this question in mind, let us take a look at Noah's life together.

Noah was a man who made God happy. When God saw the people, he sighed. He regretted that he had made humankind on the earth. He even grieved for it to his heart. But, when God saw Noah, he made him smile.

God told Noah to build an ark. Not a small boat, but huge boat to be able to contain each kind of animal and Noah's family. But the problem is, it was totally out of blue.

There are five points how Noah made God smile.

First, God smiles when we love him supremely.

Noah loved God more than anything else in the world, even when no one else did.

We tend to follow something. Usually, we follow people around us. If they buy new vacuum cleaner, we buy one too. If someone post Thai food on their Instagram or Facebook, we eat Thai food for our dinner. If someone watches a certain movie and says good thing about it, then we watch it too.

In Noah's time, no one said good thing about God. (Slide) No one cared about God. But, still, all by himself, Noah faithfully loved God. Noah sincerely established an intimate relationship with God. Have you been in a meaningful relationship? It could be your spouse, friend, teacher, student, or any relationship. How satisfying it is just to have one person in my life in such meaningful ways. What if we built a meaningful relationship with God? God always pours out his love upon us. What if we love him back in the same way he loves us?

Noah did. Noah put God the first priority in his life when no one does it. Look around your lives, are you surrounded with the people who love God? It's great!! Keep it going and walk toward God closely day by day. But, if not, look up to God. He is stretching his hands toward you. Hold his hand and fix your eyes and hearts to God. Put God first.

Second, God smiles when we trust him completely. Hebrews 11:7, **"By faith, Noah built a ship in the middle of dry land. He was warned about something he couldn't see, and acted on what he was told ... As a result, Noah became intimate with God."**

One day, God came to Noah and told him. "I will send a rain and flood to the entire earth. I will start over with your family. So, build a giant boat that will save you and the animals."

WHAT?! What is God talking about? What's flood? What's rain? He had never seen rain.

Also, the closest ocean was hundreds of miles away. Right in the middle of dry land, build a ship?? A giant ship?? Questions arise. What for? How can I move the boat to the water?

Animals? How can I keep them together? Build a giant ship? How? Who's going to help me?

How long will it take? A lot of questions. And there might be a lot of complains.

HOWEVER, can you find any questions, excuses, complains of Noah from the Bible?

NO. Noah did not make any. Noah trusted God completely. Complete trust on God means that God has best for our lives. And that complete trust makes God smile. Do we have that faith? In what areas of our lives, do we need to trust God completely?

Third, God smiles when we obey him wholeheartedly.

WHOLEHEARTEDLY is one of my favorite words. Not that I live wholeheartedly, but I long to live wholeheartedly for God. Wholeheartedly is the word ready for action. Wholeheartedly, then action word should come. Wholeheartedly do what? Wholeheartedly love children.

Wholeheartedly work for the goal. Wholeheartedly dance pouring out all the energy.

Wholeheartedly agree with you. We do something 100% and we do something with immediacy.

So, loving God wholeheartedly means we pour out our hearts to God 100% and we love God right now. In other words, we are totally obedient to God and we do not delay.

How obedient are we to God? Without our knowledge, we pick and choose the commands we obey. We make a list of the commands we like and obey those, while ignoring the ones we think are unreasonable, difficult, expensive, or unpopular. "I'll attend church, but I won't give offering." "I will read my Bible, but won't forgive the person who hurt me." Common partial obedience. But, at the end of the day, they are not obedience. But NOAH wholeheartedly follow God's command. Can you obey God like Noah?

Fourth, God smiles when we praise and thank him continually.

After the flood, Noah finally came out of the ark. Do you know the first thing he did after the flood? Kiss the land? NO. He first built an altar for God. He thanked God for saving from the flood. Noah worshiped God and he worshiped God continually whether he was building the Ark or he was in the Ark, or after he was saved from the flood. Can we continually worship God whether we like our life situations or not?

Lastly, **fifth**, God smiles when we use our abilities.

After the flood, God gave Noah these simple instructions: **"Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth ... Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything."** Genesis 9:1-3

What does this mean? Have babies. Make your life. Raise families. Plant crops. Eat meals. Be human. This is what I made you to be! Have Baby, Eat food, Live your life.

God commanded these to us. When we think about God, we tend to think about spiritual activities like Bible studies, prayers, reading the Bible, and meditation. Important! But, we do much more than these 'so-called-spiritual-activities' in our daily lives. God is bigger than our small spiritual activities. God is in our works. God is in our studies. God is in our families. God is in our cooking time. God is in our driving. God is in our walking. God is in our having fun with friends and families. God is in our sleep. God watches every single moment of our lives. And he enjoys it. If you have a baby, have you watched your babies sleeping?

After long day of caring for them, when they are sleeping, it gives you peace finally. Not only that, their being itself gives us great feeling of happiness. Their coming to our life is a miracle. They are in our lives and we are in their lives so closely intertwined. So precious.

God, in the same way, watches us. When we sleep, imagine this. God lies beside you and brushes your hair with his loving hands. With his great love, he watches you and smiles because of your being. God loves our lives. Let us use our God-given abilities in our daily activities.

God loves smiling on us. Like Noah, would you make God smile with our lives?

Let us pray.

Gracious Father God, we thank you that you love us. Like Noah lived a life that pleases your heart, we desire to live a life that makes you smile. Help us learn from good examples from the Bible or the people around us. We long to be close to you and love you more and more as we live. Thank you. Walk with us always and help us walk with you. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Supper – Communion

This is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took bread, blessed, broke it and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

This is the Lord's table. Our Saviour invites all those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared. O taste and see that the Lord is good.

(Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:) **(Please say BOLD print together)**

L: The Lord be with you. **P: And also, with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **P: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth, blessed are you, gracious God, for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; It is right and our joyful duty that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks to you, eternal God, for you are from everlasting. You alone created heaven and earth and all creatures therein. Blessed are you, God of grace and peace, for by your mercy you have given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and that does not fade away. We worship and adore you as we lift our hearts in joyful praise.

(Sanctus) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L: We praise you, most holy God. You gave your Son for our life. Thank you. By your Word and Spirit, sanctify these your own gifts of bread and wine, that the bread which we break may be to us a communion in the body of Christ, and the cup of blessing which we bless may be a communion in the blood of Christ. Union with Christ and the whole church in heaven and on earth, we present ourselves to you, O God, to be a living and holy sacrifice. O God, now, we celebrate with great joy the resurrection of our Lord, his presence with us in this feast, and his promise of a new creation, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

P: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

L: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, almighty God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the BREAD and Pouring the WINE

When we break the bread, it is a sharing in the body of Christ. (BREAD)

"This is the body of Christ broken for you." (Let us take it)

When we bless the cup, it is a sharing in the blood of Christ (CUP)

"This is the blood of Christ shed for you." (Let us drink it)

Prayer after Communion:

Precious God, glorious God, most holy God, loving Father God, gracious God, thank you. You are great! You are awesome! We love you because you first loved us, you came to us, you lived on earth for us, you died for us, and you rose for us. You gave everything you have. You gave us life, you gave us joy, you gave us church, you gave us this community, you gave us the love for you and for each other. You gave all the things we have. Thank you.

And we thank you for your faithfulness in our lives. God, you allowed us to have each other and you made us think of each other, so that we can pray for each other and we can express our love for each other. With your body in our body, we live for you. With your blood in our blood, we praise and worship you. As your church, as your beloved church, we want to please you. We

want to make you smile. We long to glorify you through our daily lives. And we want to display your goodness and love and grace and forgiveness in our relationships in our family, in our church, and in our communities. Every day we live, we want to walk with you.

Gracious Father God, we want to lift up our sincere thank-you for saving Patti McLaren. You love her so much that you had to bring her outside to save her. And with your gracious and powerful hands, you sent the right help in the right time, so she could be healed. Please be with her in her recovery process. And we praise you for guiding Mahdi's life. For the sake of your glory and your gospel, you settled him here. Finally, he can start a new life here in Canada with stability. Thank you. Through Mahdi's life, be glorified and be worshiped. May his life be a good advertisement for your love and grace. And we remember our friend Paul Runstedler. It has been one year that we lost him. Fill the hearts of Paul's remaining family, especially Carol and Mark. Give peace to them and encourage them as they remember Paul and give them hope that they will be together with Paul in heaven with you.

This time, we remember each member of our congregation. Be with them in their challenges, be with them in their difficulties, joys, thanks, and struggles. Hold their hands and walk with them. We want to witness your power and love in our daily lives. We long to you and we desire to live a life that makes you proud of us. Father God, help us. Give us your power. Be with us always. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. Our lives overflow with blessing and goodness in Christ and in creation. Out of the bounty with which God has blessed us, let us present to God our offering with overflowing thankfulness. Let us pray.

Offering prayer:

God our Maker, you have given us life in a world filled with so much abundance. In Christ you have given us new life and abundant hope. We offer our gifts to you, knowing they are part of your abundance. Bless them and bless us, that we may bring hope and new life in Christ's name to a world that so badly needs these gifts. Amen.

Offering – BOP # 292 – Father, I adore you

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. God is faithful. He loves you with his unending love. And he smiles on you. Remember, God is with us. Let us live a life pleasing God making him smile.

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. Since God knows what is best, in what area of my life do I need to trust him most?
2. How is a friendship with God similar to any other friendship, and how is it different?
3. What is my favorite thing to make God smile?