

Worship on April 25, 2021

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP # 11 – The Lord's my Shepherd
- 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: Luke 9:21-27
- Sermon: I Surrender
- Prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering (invitation and prayer)
- Offertory Hymn – I surrender

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 25, 2021. Let us worship God with our whole hearts, with undivided hearts.
- . 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: Jesus the Christ said, I am the Good Shepherd. **All: We have come to follow him.**

One: We gather in the name of the One who leads us by still waters.

All: We have come to be restored in him.

One: We gather in the name of the One who prepares a banquet for us.

All: We have come to be fed by his love, so let us worship God.

Praise song – BOP #11 – The Lord's my Shepherd

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Lord God, our good and loving shepherd, You nourish our lives and lead us into green pastures. You restore our souls with rest and peace. You give us true joy so our cup overflows with goodness. You walk with us through the darkest valleys, offering us courage and compassion. At all times and in all circumstances, you are with us, Creator, Redeemer and Guiding Spirit, so we praise you, Holy One, now and always.

Patient God, your mercy is abundant and your love is endless. Trusting in your mercy, we confess that often we have not shown your love to others, even though we claim it for ourselves. You have called us to show compassion, but too often we are quick to judge others. You have been calling us to follow Jesus, yet we are distracted by our own plans and desires. Forgive us for falling short of your hopes for us and renew a right spirit within us.

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

The mercy of our God is from everlasting to everlasting. Sisters and brothers in Christ at St. Andrew's, hear and believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, God's generous love reaches out to embrace us. We are forgiven and set free to begin again. Let us give thanks for God's most generous love.

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

Scripture: Luke 9:21-27

21 He sternly ordered and commanded them not to tell anyone, 22 saying, "The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised." 23 Then he said to them all, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. 24 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. 25 What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves? 26 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words, of them the Son of Man will be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. 27 But truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."

SERMON: I Surrender

Today's sermon title is "I Surrender."

Today's passage is Jesus talking to his disciples. Jesus revealed the secret of what would happen to him. The disciples expected to have stable life after Jesus became the king of the country. They dreamed of a royal life through Jesus. But, Jesus said this to them. **Vs. 22, "The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."**

And he continues... **“23 Then he said to them all, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. 24 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.”**

Jesus is saying that I am going to surrender myself. I am **not** going to meet your dreams. I will have to suffer from authorities. And I am giving in myself to them. I will be killed, BUT, I will be raised.

So... if you want to follow me... if anyone wants to follow me, then, they must deny themselves. They need to surrender themselves like me. And they must take up their own cross daily, like me.

The night before Jesus' crucifixion, Jesus prayed to God, **“God, if it's okay with you, please remove this suffer from me. But, if it is your will, I will take it. Your will be done in my life. I surrender my will to yours.”**

Jesus showed his example of surrendering.

Apostle Paul is a good example of surrendering his will. Originally, he was an accuser of Christians. He loved God very much and he thought that Jesus caused a lot of troubles. So, he determined to kill all the followers of Jesus. But, on the way to find Jesus followers, Jesus came to him in light and caused him blind. Through this event, Paul surrendered to Jesus and changed his course of life. From then on, Paul lived for the gospel of Jesus. However, **1 Corinthians 15:31, he said this, “I die every day!”** This confession of Paul is same as what Jesus said to his disciples, **“deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”** The examples of Jesus and Paul show that surrendering is not easy. It's not one time event, but it's ongoing process.

We are reading this book together. Today, we are talking about chapter 10, The Heart of Worship. I just told you about Jesus' and Paul's surrendering.

What is to surrender?

It is to give in. It is to give up what I will, but accept someone else's willingness about my life.

How easy do we find to surrender? Or how difficult do we find to give up what we want? Not very fondable. We don't like to surrender to something or to someone.

Then, how would we surrender what we want? Or to whom would we surrender our life? It doesn't happen regularly. Maybe never.

But, when we think about giving in or following something, unknowingly, we are surrendering our own desires to something or to someone. In other words, our desires are shaped by influences of others. We firmly believe that it's my own will, but we are shaped by our surroundings and by the things we see or hear. Our desires are products of our culture. Our desires are shaped by all the things we experience. We surrender to the opinions or expectations of others, to money, to resentment, to fear, or to our own pride, lusts, or ego. However, we are designed to worship God. Pascal said the vacuum in our hearts that can only be satisfied with God. We have freedom to choose what we surrender to, but we cannot be free from the consequences of that choice. If we don't surrender to God, we surrender to chaos.

Surrendering is the only way to experience God's power, freedom from him, and peace of God. We sometimes feel that we are losing something by giving in to God. But, we are created by

him. If we try to be the king of our own lives, we more realize that we are not capable of controlling our own lives. We have desires but we don't have ability to meet them all.

As Christ followers, we want to follow the steps of Jesus. We want to surrender our wills and our lives to God. And we want God to use us. But, at the same time, we want enough money to enjoy our lives. We want to buy what we want. We want to have enough money.

We all want both. We want to be faithful followers of Christ. But, at the same time, we don't want to suffer. We don't want to be poor. We want to have enough, so that we can use it for God and for ourselves as well. That is our honest desire.

Where did we give our hearts? We give our half to God and we want to keep half for ourselves.

That is our honest desire. Is it only me? I want money. I want God.

Did I surrender my will? On the night before his crucifixion, what if Jesus prayed to God, 'Father, I want glory from this world. I want recognition from the religious leaders. And, I want to obey you, too.' If Jesus prayed that prayer, is this surrendering? Is this obedience?

We are so easy to fall. It is very very difficult to give up our own wills. That is why Paul confessed "I die daily."

What does that mean? I have my own fleshly desires, but I desire God more, so I give up my own fleshly desires every day. Strong desires. It's embedded in us.

Isn't he the same as us? We want God, and we want this world. AT THE SAME TIME.

Are we surrendering something?
Can we give up our faith in God?
Or can we give up our desires?
Can we give up the hope in heaven?

Is this world better? Or is heaven better?
Where do we put our hopes?

We say, we put our hearts to heaven, but how we do live?

We confess that we want to follow Jesus' ways, but we live our own ways.

Jesus surrendered. Paul surrendered. He did it every day.

Abraham. God told Abraham to sacrifice his own son Isaac. Abraham was about to offer his son to God when God stopped him. He surrendered his own love for God. His everything.

Mary, Jesus' mother, surrendered her life. If her fiancé found out that she was pregnant, she would not be able to marry him and she would be stigmatized and not going to be able to marry anyone. But, when the angel of God came to her and told her that she's going to have a baby, she humbly said yes. She surrendered to God. And Mary's soon-to-be-husband, Joseph, said yes too. In his dream, the angel came and told him that Mary was pregnant by the Spirit. He did not know why, but he surrendered to God.

They did not chase their own desires. They surrendered their lives like Jesus did.

Where are we going with our lives? What are we pursuing with our lives?
Are we going to surrender our wills to worship God? Or are we going to follow the two desires in our hearts and not going anywhere?

God wants to use us. In order for him to use us, we have to let go of the steering wheel of our lives. Surrender to God. Then, we don't have to fear or surrender to anything else.

Let us pray.

Gracious Father God, we thank you. Jesus showed us his example of surrendering and perfect obedience. And Paul, Abraham, Mary, Joseph, and many other people became our good examples to follow. In our hearts, our desires are filled up. Give us faith in you and give us courage to let go of them. So, we make space for you in our hearts. Come in to our hearts and take the steering wheel of our lives. And give us wisdom and open our eyes so we see true value of your kingdom and fill our hearts with true hope. We surrender to you our everything. Let this come true in our life. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

The prayer for the people of God

Thank you Lord for calling us at this time and space so we are before your presence. As we come to you and lay our hopes and prayers before you, speak to us and help us realize what you are willing to our lives.

Father God, when you created the world, you looked at it and you said, "it is good." But, now, it does not look too great for us. We destroyed your created world. We were not good stewards. But, now, we humble our hearts before you and we ask of you one more chance. We might need more than one chance, but still, we want to try to save your creation from now on. Like Paul's confession today, we would have to die everyday to change our habits using the resources from the world. But, still, we are willing to change ourselves and become better stewards of your creation. Thank you for giving us warning through this world pandemic. Corona virus, climate change, too much food waste, wild fires, air pollution, and plastic pollution all over the world gave us signs to us. But, we weren't be able to recognize them. But, now, with the threat of our lives, now we know how important it is to give focus on nature. So, we ask of you to strengthen us and give courage to embrace discomfort for the sake of the nature. We want to hand down clean earth to our next generations. Help us be humble before you and have your wisdom.

We offer up our church to your hands. There are difficulties in the life of our congregants. Give wisdom, courage, health, financial support, relational problems, and many other challenges. Remember each of us. Let us spend few seconds in prayer for the people we know of.

(30 seconds silent prayer)

Gracious Father God, we lift up our prayers and answer our prayers in your own ways in your own terms. Give us patience and trust in you. We praise you and adore you. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. Apostle John reminds us that because Jesus laid down his life for us, we ought to lay down our lives for him. What we offer today is

not such a complete sacrifice, but our gifts show our love and commitment in gratitude for what Christ has given for us. Let us pray.

Offering prayer:

God, you are our Shepherd, strong and wise. We offer our gifts to you, asking you to bless them. Multiply their impact in the world to accomplish your will. May they be used wisely in mission and service, here in our community and through the outreach of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and its partners for the sake of Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

Offering – I surrender all

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. Psalm 23 begins with a confession to God. The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want. It is a confession of surrendering of all the desires to God. Are we satisfied with what we are given by the Lord? The Lord is becoming our true Lord? Let us keep two words this week. Surrendering and Lordship. Who has the Lordship of our lives?

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. Experience of surrendering to a person, to a group, to God, or to anything or anyone?
2. When surrendered, how was my emotion, feeling, and response?
3. True freedom? How would I define it and have I experienced it?