

Worship on May 30, 2021

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song –BOP #299 Holy, holy, holy
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination – BOP#64
- Scripture: Mark 12:28-30
- Sermon: With everything
- Prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering
- Offertory Hymn – BOP # 357 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

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, May 30th, 2021. As we come to the presence of God, let us open our hearts and minds and invite God and let us be in his presence.

. After worship, there will be Bible study. We will share our lives and thoughts and we will have time to pray for each other.

. Worship volunteers are always welcome.

. As God's church, let us create the shade of God's love and grace. Let us respond to Indian COVID Crisis with our special offerings. This is today's Mission Moment (PPT)

. Thank you for your support with your gifts. May God use us and our gifts for his kingdom. And let us remember the needy, including India.

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: Holy are you, Source and Creator of all things;

All: We bring you our praise for your gift of life.

One: Holy are you, Son and Redeemer of all things;

All: We bring you our thanks for your gift of new life.

One: Holy are you, Spirit and Sustainer of all things;

All: We come to bear witness to your truth and worship your holy name, Ever Three and Ever One.

Praise song – BOP #299 Holy, holy, holy

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God of Mystery and Mercy, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we meet you in wonder as the Blessed Trinity. You are the Ancient of Days, eternal and unchanging; yet you are the Source of each new day, renewing all things. In Christ, you encounter us in whatever each day brings with a heart that beats in love for us. Through the Spirit, you breathe life into what is growing older, energizing us to serve you in good times and hard times. In the mystery of the Trinity, you are always with us and so we bring you our worship and praise to join in your dance of life and love, Holy One and Holy Three, now and ever more.

Holy and Healing God, slow to anger and swift to forgive, you have shown us the depth of your love day by day, yet we are reluctant to love others even a little. You have shown us compassion and forgiveness, yet we turn away from one another for even small slights. We save our concern for those most like us. Forgive us. Create in us clean hearts and a desire to begin again with you and with one another. Give us the courage to forgive each other and know your healing 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 in Christ at St. Andrew's, Remember these words from apostle Paul:

"From now on we regard no one from a human point of view. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Everything old has passed away. See, everything has become new!"

Thanks be to God that we can all make a new start through God's gift of forgiveness and peace!

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

Scripture: Mark 12:28-30

28 One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; 30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' **"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."**

SERMON: With Everything

Today's sermon title is "with everything."

In the scripture, Jesus teaches us the first commandment. **"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."**

With everything, we shall love the Lord our God.

We are created to please God. That is worship. Through worship, we confirm that God continues to love us. And God wants us. God wants our hearts. He wants to be our friend, best friend. To be God's best friend, we must know him and we must spend time with him in honesty, in obedience, in submission, with desiring hearts.

This is how we should build our relationship with God.

Jesus tells us to love God with our everything and this is how to love God with our everything.

<1> God is pleased when our worship is accurate. We all like to do things in our own ways. We can have different ideas about God, but it should be guided by God's word.

People make all kinds of complicated machines. And there comes a book called manual. Manual explains how to use the machine. Without knowing how to operate the machine, many times, we won't be able to get the results we desire. The Bible is the manual of our lives from the life-giver. Also, it is God's own introduction of himself. So, we should pay attention to it.

When our loved ones tell us that they have peanut allergy, we don't give them peanut even though we love peanut so much. If we give peanut to the loved one, then what will happen? It endangers the loved one with our love because we don't listen to the instruction. We can love God, but we should love God in the way God teaches us.

<2> God is pleased when our worship is authentic.

If following God's guidance and instruction is our head, worshiping God authentically is our heart. Jesus said worship God in spirit and in truth. Knowing how to worship God is truth. It is doctrine. It is knowledge. And worship God in spirit is our hearts. When Jesus said, worship God in spirit, Jesus is referring to our spirits, our hearts. Worshiping God is the response of our spirits to God's Spirit. Worship God is pouring our hearts with sincerity. We cannot worship God without pouring out our hearts. But, many times, we don't worship God with our whole hearts. Many times, this is because we do not know how to give our hearts to God.

So, I will introduce various forms of worshipping God. See if anything fits your hearts.

The Bible mentions these ways to worship God: **confessing, singing, shouting, standing in honour, kneeling, dancing, making a joyful noise, testifying, playing musical instruments, and raising hands.**

People have different tendencies. So, there are many different ways to experience the intimacy with God: **being outdoors, studying, singing, reading, dancing, creating art, serving others, having solitude, enjoying fellowship, and participating in many different activities.**

There are different ways people are drawn to God.

Naturalists, they are inspired to love God in natural settings.

Sensates love God with their senses involving their sights, taste, smell, and touch as well as their ears.

Traditionalists draw closer to God through rituals, liturgies, symbols, and unchanging structures.

Ascetics prefer to love God in solitude and simplicity.

Activists love God through confronting evil, battling injustice, and working to make the world a better place.

Caregivers love God by loving others and meeting their needs.

Enthusiasts love God through celebration.

Contemplatives love God through adoration.

Intellectuals love God by studying with their minds.

There might be more. God did not create us in a few strict formats. God wants us to be ourselves. Try to discover the best approach of loving God, so we can pour out our sincere hearts to God.

<3> God is pleased when our worship is thoughtful.

If worship is mindless, it is meaningless. We must engage our minds. I am reading a book about how brain works when reading stories. If we say there is a glass of wine, it's simple. Brain is not stimulated much. We are not excited. But, without saying there's a wine, if we describe it by saying, there is red, glassy, reflecting the candle light near the glass on its surface, then, we can picture a glass of wine sitting beside a candle light. And, our brain is stimulated much more. We feel more excited. This is one example how writers write good stories.

In the same way, we can put more thoughts and efforts in the ways we praise God in various ways. For example, knowing different names of God is a good way. **Jehovah Nissi**, the Lord is my victory. **Jehovah Rapha**, the Lord that heals. **Jehovah Shalom**, the Lord is Peace. **Jehovah Shammah**, the Lord is present. **El Shaddai**, The Lord God Almighty. These are few examples. When I pray for people who are sick, I call out the name, Jehovah Rapha, the Lord that heals. When I pray for peace, Jehovah Shalom, the Lord is Peace. When I need the presence of the Lord, Jehovah Shammah. In this way, we can discover God with his various characters.

<4> God is pleased when our worship is practical.

One of the prayers I pray the most is that God may walk with us. Be with us. In this prayer, I want God's guidance in my daily life. When I drive, I want God's guidance to be with me. When I take a walk, I want God's presence. When I spend time with my family, I want God's love and joy to be with us.

We say that we are offering ourselves as living sacrifices.

What is the sacrifice? It is the animal who takes our sins and dies in our place.

Then, what is a living sacrifice? It is our life that we live for God.

To be living sacrifices, to live for God, there is cost. David knew this and said: **"I will not offer to the Lord my God sacrifices that have cost me nothing." (2 Samuel 24:24)**

One thing worship costs us is our self-centredness. We cannot exalt God and ourselves at the same time. Worship is not for our own benefit, but God alone. We forget this, not sometimes, but many many times. Worship becomes our spiritual entertainment, not our sacrifice for our Maker. Making time for God costs our lives. Giving God our offerings costs something for our financial life. Studying God costs a lot of effort and energy. Practical things. Actual things. We worship God with cost. To be living sacrifices, it costs our pride. To love God, it costs time. It costs our emotion. We have to sacrifice our own wants and needs, for God.

What is the cost of our worship today?

Loving God with our everything is the first commandment. Let us love the Lord our God with our heads, with our hearts, with our thoughtfulness, and with our costs. This is loving God with our hearts, minds, souls, and strengths.

Let us pray.

Father God, you gave us everything. All the things we can see around us. Our time, our energy, our body, our money, our family, and our faith. Everything we have, you gave. But, it is difficult to love you with what we have even though all the things are from you. Irony. You gave us all, but we want to keep them all for ourselves. Sinful nature, we have.

With humble hearts, we come to you. Humble, but with firm determination, we want to obey you. Now, we love you Lord with some of our being. But, now, we want to love you with our everything. We are offering you ourselves as living sacrifices. From this moment on, we want to live for you. Teach us. Remind us. Guide us. And walk with us. We want to worship you. We want to live for you. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Prayer for the people of God

Gracious and precious Father God, thank you for gathering us here today and thank you for calling us in your presence. And thank you for giving us what we have. You are the Lord and you are the Giver. We confess that we need you more than anything. As we pray to you at this time, fill our hearts with you.

We pray for Azi and Sam. Tomorrow morning, they have their refugee hearing. Give them confidence. Fill their hearts with your love and grace. Comfort them and give confidence to their hearts. We pray for the judges who will decide their refugee status. Give them gracious hearts and when they hear case for them, let them grant what is best for Azi and Sam. Lead their lives with your best ways. Bless their lives with your abundant love.

We remember Kate Revington. Yesterday last year, you called her to your side. We are sure that she's enjoying your presence. We remember the remaining family. Fill their hearts with hope for your kingdom and comfort them with confidence and love for you and for Kate. We want to remember her faithful and sincere love and passion for you. Let it be continued in our lives.

We also pray for Melinda's moving process. Be with them with all the process they have to go through and guide them with wisdom and courage and patience. You are the Giver and Sustainer, please be with them with your power. As they are to settle in different place, help them. Provide them what they need and send them your people so they create good community to share their lives together.

Also, there are people who are recovering from their illness. Jehovah Rapha. God, Healer. Place your hands upon them, with your love and power, heal them. Fill them with your grace.

We pray for India. We respond to your call to help them. Father God, thank you for blessing us so abundantly. Now it is our time to bless the needy. There are too many people suffering because of COVID 19. Let us pour our resources and our prayers for them, so they are placed safer place and better situation. God, help them.

Thanks to the vaccine, the confirmed cases are decreasing. Now we are hoping carefully to get back close to our social life. But still, help us to be careful. And help us be mindful of vulnerable people. Please continue to help the frontline workers.

Loving God, through our worship, make us living sacrifices, so we glorify you and through this worship, we want to love you with our everything. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. Jesus came for us, lived for us, died for us, and rose for us. He did everything for us. He gave everything for us. That is the love of Jesus for us. As we come to the Lord with our gifts, what do we have in our hearts? Let us love the Lord back with our everything. And let us remember the needy people, including India. Let us pray.

Offering prayer:

God of overflowing love, receive our gifts as signs of our love and commitment to live for you. Bless our gifts and our lives, that they may accomplish more than we can ask or imagine. As we

follow Jesus, equipped us by the Spirit to serve you well and wisely. Use us and our gifts for your will. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Offering – BOP #357 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. With your everything, live as living sacrifices.

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 can I do for God today as a living sacrifice?
2. How can I show the love of God that I have received?
3. Who is the one that I should tell about God's love?