

Worship on July 18, 2021 (Baptism)

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – Psalm 23
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Mark 4:35-41
- **Sermon: We cannot be perishing!**
- Baptism
- The Lord's Table

We Respond

- Offering – Baptized in Water (Lyrics)

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, July 18th, 2021. It is a great day that we have both Baptism and the Lord's Table. As we worship God, let us lift his name on high!
- . Good news. During our service today, we will have baptism of Kambiz Mirzaei and Behnaz Ershadi.
- . There will be the Lord's Table today. Please prepare your own elements.
- . No Bible study after worship.
- . Worship volunteers are always welcome.
- . Thank you for your support with your gifts. God may use our gifts and us for this world and our community.

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: In moments of anxiety, God leads us to still waters.

All: O God, we come to you.

One: In moments of confusion, God leads us in right paths.

All: O God, we come to hear your voice.

One: In moments of loneliness, God is with us.

All: O God, we come into your presence, seeking your love.

One: In all our moments, God is with us.

All: So we come to praise the One who restores our lives.

Praise song – The Lord’s my shepherd

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God our Maker, in summer we easily marvel at the world you have made, the colours of sunrise and sunset filling the horizon, the intricate beauty of flower gardens and natural parks, the quiet dignity of a river in its course, and the steadfast presence of a rock face carved over time. You show us how each small piece of your creation depends in many ways on all the others. Summer growth depends on spring rains; health for each creature depends on the wise balance you have set between each species; the quality of life on the respect we show one another.

Wise and patient God, we marvel at the world you love. Our worship joins the songs of all creation to bring you praise, honouring you and the relationships you have set between us all, through Christ, firstborn of all creation.

God our Maker, as we marvel at your creation, we confess we often take it for granted. We don’t know what to make of reports about the damage human life causes. We prefer to live as if our lifestyles make no impact on the earth. We confess we don’t really want to change. Yet we wonder if the way we live is pleasing to you. For all the ways we put your creation at risk and harm the earth, we ask for your forgiveness. Teach us how to live in this marvellous world with love and respect for you and for your whole creation.

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, Hear the good news! Colossians proclaims that in Christ, the fullness of God was pleased to dwell within us. God has made peace with us through the Cross of Jesus Christ. So in Christ, all things hold together. Accept the peace of Christ and make peace with one another in his name.

Prayer for Illumination:

Move among us with your Spirit, O God, and prepare our hearts and minds to receive your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that hearing you, we may obey your will and follow your ways in the example of Jesus Christ, the Living Word. In Jesus’ precious name, Amen.

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” 36 And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. 37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” 39 He woke up and

rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. 40 He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" 41 And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" **"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."**

SERMON: We cannot be perishing

Today's sermon title is "We cannot be perishing."

Imagine the scene of today's story. I usually try to picture the situation when reading stories.

Today's story is very fun to imagine.

After long day's work, Jesus said to his disciples. "Let us go across to the other side. Let us take the boat." They came on the boat, and they left the crowd. When they were in the middle of the lake, all of the sudden, a great windstorm arose and the waves beat into the boat.

Many of the disciples of Jesus were fishermen. Sailing was their job. They were professional workers on the boat. They made their lives in there, overcoming all kinds of difficulties. They must have experienced all kinds of situations in their boats. But, now, this storm was different than what they have experienced.

V37, "A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped."

We feel the urgency of this situation. The disciples were frightened. Even though they were experienced sailors, this storm was different. However, look at Jesus. Jesus was sleeping. In this situation? Is he serious?

So, the disciples cried out to Jesus, "Teacher! Do you not care that we are perishing!"

From this, I chose the title of today's sermon: WE CANNOT BE PERISHING!

The storm they are experiencing was different in two ways from what they have experienced before.

One, it is too strong that they cannot handle it. They were able to survive through many different difficult situations including windstorms. But, this one was beyond their ability. That was why they were so frighten.

The second difference is Jesus was with them now. Before they were called by Jesus, Jesus was not there with them. But, today, Jesus was on the boat together. **What difference does it make?**

Before we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, we went through our life's events by our own power. But, now, after we have Jesus Christ in our lives, we are led by Jesus. Jesus becomes our captain, our driver, our leader, our help.

So, Jesus being in the boat with us in the great windstorm makes huge difference in our lives. We are not alone any more. We don't have to go through all the things by ourselves any more. Now we have sure foundation of Jesus. Now we don't have to worry about failures. We cannot be defeat.

Now, today, we will baptize Kambiz and Behnaz. They publicly declared their faith in Jesus Christ. Officially, after today's baptism, they have Jesus Christ in their hearts. Now, it's public. They might have experienced challenging situations like the disciples' windstorm. From now on, there will be difference. **Kambiz and Behnaz, you cannot be perishing! You cannot be failed.**

“I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.” (Matthew 16:18)

This is the promise of God. This gives us power to overcome everything in Jesus.

Lastly, when the disciples were in panic, what did Jesus do? He was sleeping.

Then, does this mean that Jesus does not care about his disciples?

Does he not know what’s going on because he was sleeping?

No. Jesus does not miss anything. He works for us whether we know it or not. He provides what we need whether we pray for it or not.

So, what does this mean that Jesus was sleeping?

Jesus was waiting for us to call him. Jesus was waiting for us to pray to him. Although Jesus knew what we want to ask him before we say anything, Jesus wants us to speak to him.

In our life, we will experience storms. Jesus knows what we are going through whether we pray to him or not. But, one thing we can learn from today’s passage is that Jesus is waiting for us to talk to him. Jesus is waiting for us.

40 He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?”

Do not be afraid of anything, but look upon Jesus with faith in him.

So, as we live our daily lives this week, remember Jesus. He is with us and he is waiting for us. Because he is with us, we cannot be perishing. Failing is not an option for us. With Jesus as our foundation, we are secure no matter what happens in our lives.

Let us pray.

Gracious Father God, we thank you so much for being with us. You came to us to be with us. You gave us life, you gave us power, you gave us hope. Jesus, you are the Giver of all the things we have. Because we have you in our hearts, we are safe. Our lives are safe in you. Help us remember the fact that you are on the same boat as we are. Because of you, we are saved already. In Jesus’ precious name, we pray. Amen.

Baptism (Now, this is the time for Baptism)

Baptism is a sign and seal of our union with Christ and with his church. Through it, we share in the death and resurrection of Christ and are commissioned to his service.

In Baptism, water is administered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The water signifies the washing away of sin, the start of new life in Christ, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, God acts through Baptism. It is the sacrament not of what we do but of what God has done for us in Christ. God’s grace and our response to it are not tied to the moment of Baptism, but continue and deepen throughout life. It is a sacrament meant for those who profess their faith and for their children. Together we are the family of God.

Baptism is also an act of discipleship that requires commitment and looks towards growth in Christ. Those baptized in infancy are called in later years to make personal profession of Christ. What is born may die. What is grafted may wither. Congregations and those baptized must strive to nurture life in Christ.

Baptism assures us that we belong to God. In life and in death, our greatest comfort is that we belong to our faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.

The minister continues: Who comes to receive the gift of baptism?

An elder presents each candidate for baptism saying:

On behalf of session, I present Kambiz Mirzaei and Behnaz Ershadi to receive the sacrament of baptism.

The minister says: Who comes to affirm their baptism?

On behalf of session, I present Kambiz Mirzaei and Behnaz Ershadi who have been baptized and are members of the body of Christ. They have been nurtured within the Christian community and instructed in the belief and practice of the church.

In making public profession of their faith, they desire to affirm the meaning of their baptism, and to claim the rights and responsibilities associated with membership in the congregation of St. Andrew's.

Kambiz Mirzaei and Behnaz Ershadi, Do you desire to be baptized?

(I DO)

Kambiz Mirzaei and Behnaz Ershadi, you stand before God and this company of God's people to affirm the covenant God made with you at your baptism, to acknowledge your growth in grace and to assume responsibility as a disciple of Jesus Christ in this congregation and the world.

Are you ready to make public your profession of faith?

(I am ready.)

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God who has been faithful to us in all generations, do you turn away from sin, renounce evil and all powers in the world that rebel against God or oppose God's rule of justice and love?

(I DO)

Do you renounce the ways of sin which separate you from the love of God?

(I DO)

Do you turn to Jesus Christ, accepting him as Lord and Saviour, trusting in his grace and love?

(I DO)

Do you desire, in dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit, to mature as a Christian in the church, to seek the guidance of Christ as you listen for his Word, to celebrate his death and life at the table he provides, and to engage in his mission to the world?

(I DO)

*The minister asks the congregation **to stand** and questions them and the sponsors saying:*

Now, it's time to ask the sponsoring congregation. Please stand, if you are able.

Do you, on behalf of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Kambiz Mirzaei and Behnaz Ershadi by word and deed, with love and in prayer, encouraging them to follow the way of Christ and to be faithful members of his church?

We do.

Thank you. You may be seated. Now, let us profess our faith in the words that are common to the holy universal church: **(The Apostles' Creed)**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

(Water is poured visibly and audibly into the font before the prayer begins.)

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.**

We give you thanks, O gracious God, for the gifts of water and your Spirit. In the beginning, when your Spirit moved over the waters, you gave order and life to your planet earth.

By the waters of the flood, you cleansed the earth, and established with Noah and his family a new beginning for all people.

In the time of Moses, you led your people out of slavery through the waters of the sea, making covenant with them in a new land.

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ, who was formed in the water of a woman's womb.

In the water of Jordan, Jesus was baptized and anointed by your Holy Spirit.

In his ministry to the world, Jesus offered living water to the woman of Samaria, washed the feet of his disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all nations by water and the Spirit.

And now, with your people of all times and places, we wait with eager longing as we look for the city of God, from which will flow the river of life for the healing of the nations.

Gracious God; by the gift of water and your Holy Spirit, you sustain all life.

(The prayer continues as the minister raises a handful of water and pours it into the font.)

Almighty God; by the power of your Holy Spirit, and by the sign of this water, you cleanse from sin through the death of Jesus Christ. Those who receive this sacrament; you raise them to new life through his resurrection, and you graft them into his body, the church.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon these your children, that they may have power to do your will and continue forever as servants of Christ to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory now and forever. Amen.

The Act of Baptizing (All candidates for baptism except infants may kneel. The minister pours or sprinkles generous amounts of water on each head, while saying.)

Kambiz Mirzaei, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May the Spirit of God dwell in you and uphold you, now and forever. Amen.

Behnaz Ershadi, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May the Spirit of God dwell in you and uphold you, now and forever. Amen

Declaration and Welcome (Following the baptism and blessing, with all standing, the minister says:)

Kambiz Mirzaei and Behnaz Ershadi, you are now received by Christ's appointment into the holy, catholic church. Through baptism, God has made you members of the household of God to share with Christ in the priesthood of all believers. Remember your baptism and give thanks. Be one with us in the church.

The Lord's Supper – Communion

Now, this is time for the Lord's Table. With two new members of our church family today, we will come to the Table that the Lord has prepared for us.

(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: God of love and grace, It is a joyful mystery whereby Jesus takes the bread and wine to represent his atoning sacrifice, deepening our union with himself and with each other, giving us of his life and strength. Jesus became foundation and Jesus gave us hope for this troubled world we live in. Jesus, you are the symbol of hope and life and the key of our lives. Therefore, **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: Gracious God, your perfect sacrifice destroys the power of sin and death. By your resurrection, you gave us life for evermore. Father God, we offer you this bread and this cup. Send your Holy Spirit 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

Take, eat, remember, and believe that the precious body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (BREAD)

“This is the body of Christ, given for you.” (Let us take it)

Take, drink, remember, and believe that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (CUP)

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

Prayer after Communion:

Thank you Father God for your presence and guidance. Thank you that we are together in one space and connected virtually at the same time. Because of Corona Virus, we had to adopt new ways of connecting to each other. Through these new ways, may more people be drawn near to you.

With the vaccine, the rate is decreasing. Thank you for your help. So, everyone is preparing reopening. In the process, help us to be careful and put the safety first. And give us wisdom in what to do and when to do.

Tornado hit Barrie and left severe damage. Lord, have mercy upon them and provide them what they need and strengthen them as they rebuild their lives.

We are glad that we were able to baptize Kambiz and Behnaz. Today, they confess their faith in you in their baptism. Empower them with your presence and walk with them with your faithfulness. Let their hearts be open to you and let their eyes be fixed on you. Help them grow in you. Guide their family as they settle in their new country.

We pray for our congregation. As the impact of corona virus is decreasing, we are hopeful that we are able to gather in our church building. Give us patience and give us wisdom and courage. So, we obediently follow your ways.

Watch over us through this week and be praised through our lives. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. God's goodness flourishes around us in this season of growth and re-creation. Our gifts to God are a token of our gratitude for all we receive in Christ and in creation. These gifts will also help God's goodness flourish through the ministries we undertake in Jesus' name. Let us pray.

Offering prayer:

God of goodness and growth, receive our gifts and our gratitude for the fruitfulness you provide. Bless our gifts with your Spirit so that they may accomplish more than we can ask or imagine, for the sake of Christ, our Friend and Saviour. Amen.

Praise song – Baptized in Water

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. We will face difficulties, challenges, and hopeless situations. But, Jesus is in our life. We cannot fail. We cannot be perishing because of Jesus. Hold his hands and walk with 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.