

Worship on October 3, 2021

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – You are my shepherd
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Psalm 23
- Sermon: Feast
- The Lord's Table
- Prayer after the Communion * Commemorate the lost during the Pandemic

We Respond

- Offering – This is my desire

We Serve

- Benediction

Ponder Upon Questions

Announcements:

- . Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us live right now. This is Sunday, October 3rd, 2021. Welcome back! Let us enjoy God and glorify him!
- . Today is World Communion Sunday. Also, the first Sunday of the month. We will have the Lord's Table. Please have your pre-packed Communion elements ready.
- . There is no Bible study after worship. Let us settle in-person worship first.
- . During our prayer after the Communion, we will commemorate the lost during the Pandemic.
- . Worship volunteers are always welcome for Bible readers, ushers, and etc.
- . 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: The banqueting table is prepared: God calls us to feast together.

All: We have come from east and west, from north and south, to sit together at the Lord's table.

One: Compassion, love and grace pour out like fine wine.

All: God's Word is bread for our journey.

One: Let us join Christians around the world to share in God's gifts.

All: Let us taste and see that the Lord is good!

Praise song – You are in control

Verse

You are my Shepherd I have no needs
You lead me by peaceful streams
And You refresh my life
You hold my hand and You guide my steps
I could walk through the valley of death
And I won't be afraid

Chorus

(Because) You are in control
You are in control
You are in control
(You are in control)

Bridge

You cause ev'rything to work together
You truly have a sov'reign plan

Bridge

And You know who I am
And You made who I am
And You love who I am

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Eternal God, as we come to your table today, we recognize that, here, heaven and earth join hands. Around this holy table, we join with your church which stretches around the world, and across many generations, to meet you in our midst. As we remember Jesus this day, unite us to those who have served you over the centuries, and to all who serve you in so many different places and situations today. We praise you for your amazing love which embraces the countless congregations and invites us into a future you are creating for us all. Around your table, O God, let us join hands with heaven and earth to celebrate your holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ever present God, When you invite us to your table, you ask us to come with clean hands and clean hearts. You ask us to come in peace, seeking reconciliation with you and with each other. We confess that the church has not always sought reconciliation within or beyond its walls. In this silence, we hand over to you the broken relationships, disagreements and disappointments that keep us from living in your peace. Let us take a moment of silent prayer. **(silence)**

Free us from the burdens we carry, so that we may be a source of peace in this troubled world in the name of Christ who is our peace.

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, Paul declared, 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! Know that you are forgiven and have the courage to forgive one another.

Prayer for Illumination:

By your Word, O God, open our minds to greater understanding; open our hearts to deeper love; and strengthen our determination to live the gospel we meet through Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Scripture: Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long. **"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."**

SERMON: Feast

Welcome back. It is great to be here together in our regular worship space. Being in the same place means a lot. Our physical presence here gives us great comfort and feeling of aliveness.

Those who are here physically in this place, thank you for coming and blessings to you.

Also, if you are watching this at home, grace and peace and blessings to you as well. God may come to wherever you are and stir your soul and let the presence of the Lord be with you.

Today's sermon title is "Feast."

Worship is affirming the worth. So, when we worship God, we simply saying that God is worthy. Worship is giving God his worth. All praise, honour, glory, and our love are God's. God is worthy of all our good things; and all the good things of the whole world cannot compete God's worth. God is most precious of all.

In today's Psalm, David sings this God's worth. David knew how worthy his God was. For David, God was his shepherd.

Who is shepherd? Shepherd is someone who takes care of sheep. Do you know about sheep? I am not an expert, but I read from various books.

Sheep are not very smart. They are not good at running, hiding, or fighting with other animals. When they fall down, they cannot get up by themselves. Sad thing is, it is very easy for them to get flipped. So, someone has to help them to stand up again. Otherwise, they die because they cannot get up by themselves. They can never live alone.

They need someone to help. They live in group. Basically, for them to survive, they need someone. So, shepherd has to know them. In the example of Jesus' parable, a shepherd counted 100 sheep every day. But, one day, one sheep was missing. So, the shepherd went out to find the lost one. How did the shepherd find out the missing one? One, he counts well. Two, more importantly, he knew all 100 sheep, like his babies. That is how he was able to know who's missing. That is the true shepherd.

Today's Psalm is written in the perspective of sheep, not shepherd. So, David knew that he was a sheep and the shepherd is the Lord.

As a sheep who has Jesus as his shepherd, this Psalm 23 was written.

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Everything looks peaceful and calm. Everything seems well. But, read v4, **"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me."** It's still good, but there was some difficulty. But, David, as a sheep, was well protected by the shepherd. That is this song, his confession. We don't need to find out the background of Psalm 23. This Psalm states that he experienced the darkest valley, but because of the Lord, he was not afraid.

So far, is this Psalm identify you? Can you confess this Psalm with your life?

This Psalm is the most famous Psalm. Maybe the most famous Bible verse. It is widely loved by many people. But, not many people experience this Psalm in their lives.

They say that the Lord is their shepherd, but it's not true. They are their own shepherds. Like sheep. They don't know where to go to feed their hunger, they don't know how to get up when they fall, they cannot protect themselves from dangers, but they go their own ways. They do whatever they want to do.

That is why sheep need the rod and staff of the shepherd. Rod and staff are like the extended arms for shepherd. When they go wrong way, the shepherd taps the sheep. Or with rod and staff, he blocks the danger for sheep.

Shepherd and sheep move around to find grass. During the trip, sometimes, they have to go through swamp, desert, thorn bush, and hot weather and cold days. Difficult situations.

But, sheep don't worry about their situations. **"For you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me."** In other words, because the Lord is leading us with his extended arms, I have peace.

V5, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

Easy times and difficult times, we go through together with the Lord. Then, feast. **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

We had to have online church because of pandemic for a long time.

Have we stayed with the Lord?

Sometimes yes, sometimes maybe, and sometimes, with honesty, no.

Apart from our answers yes, maybe, and no, DO WE WANT TO BE WITH HIM?

YES!! V6, Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

This Psalm does not say that I shall not want, when all things go well. It never says I shall not want, when I meet all my needs. NO NO NO. Whether we go through darkest valley, whether we have good days, our cups overflow. We shall dwell in the house of the Lord our whole lives long whether there are good things or bad things in our lives.

We don't know how long we can continue to meet in our church building. We still have fear of going back to online church. Whether things go well or not, we worship God. We confess that God is our worth. That is our worship. That is our FEAST.

Psalm 23 is a great example of worship in all kinds of circumstances. Have the image of feast. When we are with the Lord, our lives will be a feast with the Lord.

Let us pray.

God of love and grace, thank you for calling us in your presence. In your presence, we stay still and enjoy your love and be peaceful. We are sheep and you are the shepherd. Help us give you the Lordship to you. Help us give you the steering wheel of our lives. Guide us and lead our lives, so our lives become a feast with you whether we go through good days and hard days. In all the things we meet, we worship and praise you. Be glorified through our lives. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Table THIS is time for the Lord's Table.

The table that is set, is set for all; around it there are no divisions.

Just as one loaf is made from many grains, and as one cup is filled from the fruit of many grapes, so, we are made one in Christ, nourished by him to nourish the world.

Jesus calls us to this table, and all are welcome here. 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: It is our greatest calling and greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, Lord God, Creator and Sustainer of heaven and earth. You spoke, and all things came into being: the sun, moon and stars, the sky, earth and waters and all they contain. Your Spirit swept over creation, and brought order out of chaos, life from the formless void. From the elements of the earth, you created humankind, each unique, all made in your holy image. Your breath gave us life and called us to live with you in loving service to neighbour and stranger alike.

Yet when we turned away from you, you never turned from us. Through the prophets, you called us back to your ways. You sent Jesus, your Son, born of a mother's flesh, to reveal the full extent

of your grace and love. Again and again, you welcome us to your side with the open arms of a loving father. Therefore, we join our voices with those from every time and place, **we lift our hearts in joyful praises**

(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: Holy is your Son Jesus, O God. Walking this earth, feeding the hungry, calling the lost and lonely, he brought healing and wisdom to those who sought him out, and revealed your kingdom taking shape in this world. As we break bread and share wine in his name, with your people here and in every place, **we proclaim the mystery of faith:**

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

L: Pour out your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. Gather your church together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom where peace and justice are realized, and joy will be shared at the banquet you prepare for us when heaven and earth join hands. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory are yours, Tender and Mighty God, now and forever.

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, broken 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, poured out for you.” (Let us drink it)

Prayer after Communion: Include all the people who lost during the pandemic

Lord Jesus Christ, you have nourished us, body and soul, in this meal.

We have heard your love proclaimed, now send us out to speak it to others.

We have seen your love poured out, now send us out to show it in everything we do.

We have been fed by your love at your table, now send us out to share it so the world may believe. And let all things be done for your glory..

At this time, we remember and honour the lives of the people we lost during the Pandemic. As we remember these names, Lord, fill our hearts with your peace and encouragement, so we may learn from their lives and carry on the good things they have planted in our lives.

We remember Bob Knowles, Paul Runstedler, Kate Revington, Bill Summers, Velma Hayashi, Bea Bikker, Marion Monkman, Tony Parkinson, Enid Maze, Don Wilson, Ralph Jessup, Janis’ dad, and Mary Duthie.

Because of this time being, we won’t be able to gather together and share the love and memories. Lord, be with the families and our church friends, and give us peace and love. Help us share our love as we get together week by week. And we want you to be glorified through our fellowship. We are longing for the day of reunion in your presence in heaven. Fill our hearts with hope. Lead and guide us so we can live like the people with hope.

In our lives, there are ups and downs. We are praying for the Truth and Reconciliation ministry with indigenous people. They lost their land. They lost their family. They lost their hope. Slowly and gradually, we are trying to restore their loss. We don't know how long this process will take. And we are not too sure whether their loss will be restored. But, the good thing is that we are trying. We are focusing on our wrongdoings and paying attention to their voices. Let this Truth and Reconciliation ministry touch the needs of them and let this ministry change our thoughts and lifestyles.

We remember our church family. There are people who are in their difficult times. Lord, you are the Lord who cares for each of us. You are listening to the smallest sighs. You are present in the most difficult times of our lives. Like the poem Footprints, you are carrying us in our difficult times. Encourage each of the people who are having hard times. If they have physical pain, release them from the inconvenience and fear and pain. Free them from all their physical and spiritual and psychological difficulties. Place your hands upon each of them right now. Go and visit their hearts right now. Fill them with the peace the world cannot give, the peace the world cannot even know. We are your people and you are our God. We offer our worship to you and we trust your loving and caring hands.

Through our worship, Lord, we want to please you. Make our worship sincere. Help us pour our whole hearts to you as we worship you. We honour you and love you. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. Today is World Communion Sunday. And it reminds us that we are part of a global family committed to serve our neighbours in Jesus' name. The gifts we offer join the gifts of many others to bring the love and compassion of Christ into places of deep need. Let us bless others as we have been blessed in Christ. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Gracious and generous God, we offer you our gifts with humble thanks for all you have provided. Bless them with your Spirit and use them to bless those in deepest need with love they can taste and justice they can celebrate, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Praise song – This is my desire

Verse

This is my desire
To honour You
Lord with all my heart
I worship You
All I have within me
I give You praise
All that I adore is in You

Chorus

Lord I give You my heart
I give You my soul
I live for You alone
Ev'ry breath that I take
Ev'ry moment I'm awake
Lord have Your way in me

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. The Lord is our shepherd and we shall not want. This may become our confession day by day. Let us humble ourselves and cast down our crowns and make Jesus our King and Lord.

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. When do I feel the true satisfaction?
2. What is the way of my worshiping God?
3. How my worship becomes a feast with the Lord?