

Worship on October 10, 2021 THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – There is power in the blood
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Matthew 11:28-30
- Sermon: Power
- Prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering – Now thank we all our God

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 10th, 2021. Happy Thanksgiving! We hope and pray that everyone have lots to thank God even in this time of difficulties. May God's love and peace be with you all.

. There is no Bible study after worship. Let us settle in-person worship first. But, Ponder Upon Questions are prepared continuously, please use them.

. 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: God blesses us with gifts of love,

All: with relationships that bring joy and gratitude.

One: God blesses us with talents and opportunities to serve,

All: all we need for faithful living.

One: God protects us in times of danger:

All: and guards us from the time of trial.

One: So, we gather to offer thanksgiving to the Lord our God.

All: Praise be to God for all good things, now and always!

Praise song – There Is Power In The Blood (Power In The Blood)

Chorus There is power power Wonder working power In the blood of the Lamb There is power power Wonder working power In the precious blood of the Lamb	Verse 1 Would you be free From your burden of sin There's power in the blood Power in the blood Would you o'er evil a victory win There's wonderful power in the blood	Verse 2 Would you be free From your passion and pride There's power in the blood Power in the blood Come for a cleansing To Calvary's tide There's wonderful power in the blood
Verse 3 Would you be whiter Much whiter than snow There's power in the blood Power in the blood Sin stains are lost In its life giving flow There's wonderful power in the blood	Verse 4 Would you do service For Jesus your King There's power in the blood Power in the blood Would you live daily His praises to sing There's wonderful power in the blood	

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God of all creation, in this season of thanksgiving for the harvests of the earth, we are struck by the beauties of autumn, leaves in bright colours, birds flying south in formation, fields ripe with produce. Such beauty speaks of your goodness, your desire to provide what each beloved creature needs. As we gather this day, renew our sense of thanksgiving for what you give to us in the fruitfulness of creation, and in Christ Jesus who teaches us how to walk wisely on the earth you made. For all your good gifts we honour you with thanks and praise, now and always.

God of our lives, when we give thanks for your good gifts around us, we know that we enjoy an abundance many cannot even imagine. Yet we confess we do not always see the blessings in which we share. We worry about the future, if we can recover from the pandemic, whether we will have enough for our families to flourish. Forgive our fears of going without, and our failure to be grateful for how much goodness is already ours.

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, Be at peace this day.

Jesus, our High Priest, knows the temptations of the human heart. From the throne of grace, he offers us mercy in our weakness. His strength renews us in faithfulness. Thanks be to God.

Prayer for Illumination:

God of wisdom, through your holy Word and the gift of your Spirit, open our minds to greater understanding, our hearts to deeper love, and our wills for greater service, through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 11:28-30

28 “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” **“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”**

SERMON: Power

Today’s sermon title is “POWER.”

POWER might not be a typical Thanksgiving theme. But, when I thought of this year’s thanksgiving, I thought of the powerful God. Not because we can come and gather together in our church building, but we forget how powerful our God is.

God we are serving is powerful God.

God we are worshipping right now is powerful God.

God created everything. He knows everything and everyone.

Because we don’t understand God, we only define him within our own understanding and within our own imaginable ability.

Through today’s scripture, God is calling us, “COME TO ME, ALL YOU THAT ARE WEARY AND ARE CARRYING HEAVY BURDENS, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.”

What does this tell you? If someone says this to you, how would you feel?

If your daddy says this to you when you are falling apart, how would you feel?

Or if someone you trust and respect the most tells you this, how would you feel?

You are supported. You have someone to rely upon. There is someone trusting you. You can ask for help when you are desperate. There is hope you can hold on to.

Then, who can be that somebody?

Your spouse? Your parents? Your teacher? Your pastor?

It could be any person. But, what’s the requirement?

Someone says to you that he or she will help you.

Then, what do they need to have? POWER to help.

They must be able to help you. Otherwise, what they are saying is vain. It’s meaningless.

If you are broke, you need financial help. You ask that person who told you to come anytime.

“I will help you with all your needs.” But, when you needed money, he says, “Oh, I barely have enough money to support my family.” Or, when you need \$10,000, he can only support you with \$1,000. It’s a lot of help, but not enough for your situation.

Who can claim this v28?? “COME TO ME, ALL YOU THAT ARE WEARY AND ARE CARRYING HEAVY BURDENS, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.”

That person has to be powerful. That person must be able to help you with all kinds of resources.

Think for few seconds, who would this person be? Do you have anyone who can support you with anything you need? With time, with money, with care, with love, with willingness, and with kindness...

Many might want to say their parents, but are they really that powerful? If you are a parent, you know what I mean.

In many cases, they are not that powerful.

In my case, I started a work during the week about few weeks ago. I go to work early in the morning. I was able to take care of them before they go to schools. But, now, I go to work while they are still sleeping. As they grow up, they want to learn various things. They need to take swimming lessons, they need some martial arts like Tae Kwon Do or Judo. They need piano lessons. And they start to eat a lot. Financial needs are getting bigger and bigger.

I am realizing my inability to support the needs of my family, financially. We wanted to buy a house, but the price is beyond our reach. We need to increase our income.

Moreover, (we are still talking about how powerless parents are,) emotionally, when they want to sleep, they become cranky. By that time, my patience is almost empty too. Sometimes, after saying good night, they don't want to sleep and they come out from their room. At night, I need to finish my unfinished works of the day. Then, many times, I forcefully send them back to their room to sleep. For my boys, I am big. I am able. They look up to me. But, in reality, I am so weak, impatient, and I force them to sleep.

BUT STILL, I say to them, come to daddy. I will hold you. I will help you. I will take care of your needs.

IS THIS LIE? The answer is YES AND NO. Am I really able to take care for all their troubles? NO. But, still, I want to comfort them. But, I won't be able to solve all the problems for them.

Listen to today's scripture in The Message paraphrased Bible.

28-30 "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

This is the promise of God that he will be with us no matter what.
It's all over the Bible.

Joshua 1:9 - Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Isaiah 41:10 - do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Deuteronomy 31:6 - Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you."

Matthew 28:30 - And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

John 15:5 - I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

God is with us. God is present within God's people. God listens to us and God watches over us all through our lives. When we are focusing on our own needs, God is with us. When we are turning away from God and having hard time, God is with us.

Let us come to God trusting his promise. Let us learn from him. Let us walk with him and work with him. He will always be with us, so we can live in freedom. God is powerful. In front of us, there are so many obstacles blocking the view seeing God. What are they? What are the things blocking us from God's power?

One day, a boy went to church. The pastor preached about faith. With faith, we can go to heaven. With faith, we are confident in God. With faith, we can overcome all difficulties. He was totally fascinated with faith. He went home and told his dad. Faith is this good and that good. But, what is faith? The dad was not able to answer quickly. He thought about it for a while. The dad called his son with a ladder. He put the ladder toward the roof and climbed up the ladder. He asked his son to come up as well. The father and the son were on the roof. The father went down first and removed the ladder. What? And he's saying to his son to jump. Would you jump if you were the son? The son said to his dad that he was too scared. But, the dad was firm. Come on, jump. The boy was hesitant for a long time, but after all, he jumped to his father's arms. When the dad was holding his son, he said, "this is faith."

If we don't jump, we don't experience the power of our Father. If we don't come to Jesus, we have to take our own burdens ourselves. Jesus invites to come and lay down all our burdens and have rest. Can we really bring all our worries and life issues? We tend to take care of our own problems. But, Jesus says, "No you can't. give it to me. I will take care of them." Who's powerful? Who can take care of our lives? Let us respond to God's promise that he will be with us and help us.

Let us pray.

Powerful God, thank you for your invitation. Thank you for your promise that you will take care of us. You will take care of all our troubles, all our burdens. We are so used to take care of our own problems. We struggle so much. But, for us, it feels natural. Too sad! God, we are created to be with you. We are created in your own image, so we can exercise your power! And we are your children. We are your heirs. There is no reason that we can use your power in our lives. The power of yours is given to us already. We have the promise of yours. Help us with our weak faith. Give us faith so we can come to you and lay all our burdens. Thank you for your invitation and guidance. We desire to be with you and follow your steps. Help us Lord. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Prayer for the people of God

God of love and grace, we are humbling ourselves before your presence. We come to you with our needs and wants. As we pray, give us wisdom, so we can discern between our needs and wants. And give us courage, so we can accept our gut-feelings that is from you.

We are praying for the people in your church. We are grateful that we are able to come back to our church building and to have in-person worship services together. As we worship you, may our worship be heartfelt and sincere. Through our worship, we want to make you happy. Accept

our worship and enjoy our praise for you. Whenever and wherever we worship you, help us pour out our hearts to you.

We have some desperate prayers. There are people who are suffering from their illness. Lord God, go and comfort their hearts. Embrace them and hold them tight with your love and peace. As they are getting medically treated, be with the hands of the doctors and nurses, so they are well treated and well cared. Also, comfort their hearts and cast away their fear of sickness, and help their family members. Fill their hearts with your love and your power. Your hands are powerful. Jehovah Rapha, you are the healer. Heal their disease and remove the sickness from them. Let them worship and praise you with all their hearts.

Lord, this is Thanksgiving Sunday. Very special Sunday. What do we have in our hearts to bring you with joy and love and thankfulness? Why can't we count the blessings in our lives from you? Alas our sinful nature. We are too weak to come to you with our own power. Lord, fill our hearts with your power, so we can live a powerful life! We are your children. We have your own image. Your power is with us. We should be able to exercise your power. Let us experience your power! Give us faith. Help our unbelief, Lord.

We are praying for the refugees here in Canada. They are here to be safe. They are here to have new lives. Help them to have resources they need. Help them to meet the people they need to meet. Fill their lives with your power, so they are given what they need. Especially, grant them their stable status, so they have peace of mind, so they can start their new lives in peace. Show your power upon them and speak to them with your goodness.

In this Thanksgiving, Lord, fill our hearts with gladness and thankfulness. All the good gifts are from you, Lord. Teach our hearts your goodness and let our lives experience your goodness and power. We are yours. Be the Lord and be honoured and lifted through our lives. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. At this time of harvest, we celebrate the gifts of God's good earth which sustain us. Yet this year we know in some places, harvests will not be plentiful. In every community, neighbours still struggle to recover from what has been lost during the pandemic. So today we offer what we have to share, grateful for God's gifts large and small, praying they will make a difference in difficult times, trusting that God goes with us, whatever we face. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Generous God, we bring our offering with thanksgiving for all the goodness we enjoy in Christ and in creation. Bless these gifts and use them to relieve the need and anxiety many feel these days. Use us, too, so that lives filled with tears may see signs of your love and joy in what we can offer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our friend, Amen.

Praise song – Now thank we all our God

Verse 1: Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things has done, in whom God's world rejoices,	Verse 2: Oh may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,	Verse 3: All praise and thanks to God who reigns in highest heaven, The Father and the Son and Spirit now be given,
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Who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today	And keep us all with grace, and guide us when perplexed, And free us from all ills in this world and the next	The one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore, For thus it was, is now and shall be evermore
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Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. God is powerful. He is the only source of our power. Let us ask God his power in our lives. Because we are the children of our powerful Father God, we have his power too. Let us use our power, true power, in 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. What am I thankful for?
2. How can the power of God be experienced in our daily lives?
3. What kind of power of God do we want to see?
4. What is hindering us to experience the power of God?