

Worship on October 24, 2021

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 500 – Open my eyes, that I may see
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4
- Sermon: Blessing
- Prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering – Come, Thou fount of every blessing

We Serve

- Benediction

Ponder Upon Questions

Announcements:

. Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us. This is Sunday, October 24th, 2021. God is good all the time. We have a great news today. Our faithful member, Cheryl Daddis was told to have lung cancer at the end of September. She went through all kinds of tests during October. On 21st of October, she went to see specialist and she said that the lung cancer was gone. Instead, she will have to be treated for a minor issue with her respiratory system. Let us give praise to the Lord, the Healer, and continue to pray for her health! May God have mercy and his unending love upon those who earnestly seek his faith.

. We will have the Lord's Table next week. We change the date because we want to have the Lord's Table on the first Sunday of Advent which is on Nov. 28.

. October session meeting is on Thursday, October 28, 2021 @ 7 pm via Zoom.

. Worship volunteers are always welcome for Bible readers, ushers, and etc.

. Thank you for your support with your gifts. May God use your gifts in spreading his love and mercy to the people who need the Lord. May their hardened hearts be softened with his love.

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: Praise the Lord in every time and place.

All: We will speak God's praises constantly.

One: Boast only in the Lord.

All: We will praise God's wonderful deeds.

One: Spread the news of God's greatness.

All: We will give God glory everywhere we go. So let us worship God together this day!

Praise song – BOP 500 – Open my eyes that I may see

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me; place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God thy will to see; open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine.	Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear, and while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything thing false will disappear. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God thy will to see; open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine.	Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere; open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God thy will to see; open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine.
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Prayer For Adoration and Confession

O Lord our God, you hear the voice of those who cry out to you and you respond with love. You reach out to us when others have turned away. You offer us compassion when others dismiss our worth. You heal us when we thought we were beyond repair. Your amazing love transforms our lives over and over again, and so, we offer you our humble praise in the name of Jesus, your love made flesh. Receive our gratitude in this time of worship, as we join with your whole creation to bring you honour and glory, now and always.

Lord of love and mercy, we worship you as the source of every good and perfect gift, but we confess our gifts to you are less than perfect. We honour you when it fits into our schedules, not so much when we have other things to do. We forget that your love should set our priorities, and pursue our own desires instead. In your loving-kindness, forgive our wavering hearts and reawaken our commitment to you.

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, we are promised that those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Claim your hope in this good news: God's perfect love abides in you through Jesus Christ our Lord. Thanks be to God for such great mercy.

Prayer for Illumination:

O God, as we hear your Word read and interpreted today, open our eyes to the way you set before us. Let your Word, heard in faith, make us well, so that we are able to follow your Son, our Saviour and Friend. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4

1 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” 4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.” **“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”**

SERMON: Blessing

Today’s sermon title is “Blessing.”

After we opened our church building again, the message was **FEAST**, the worship is the feast before God and with God. Then, we have the **POWER** of God. Then, **PRAYER** is asking God for wisdom. These sermons were not meant to be a series, but when I thought of the flow of them, I decided to talk about BLESSING today, which sums up the three sermons. (cover page for each sermon)

See, feast with God. Power of God with us. And prayer, the wisdom of God with us. These are all **WITH GOD**. Being with God is BLESSING. That’s the flow I found in these sermons. We are going to talk about BEING WITH GOD today.

In today’s passage, what one word stood up for you?

It could be 75 years old or curse. But, the core message of God in this passage is blessing.

V2-3, in NLT, **“I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”**

God’s promise was to bless Abraham.

Now, what matters is, how are we going to define this blessing!

Is blessing something we like or we want? Is this something that makes us comfortable and makes us happy? IF THAT IS ALL ABOUT BLESSING, there is no difference between God and MONEY, right?

With money, we can buy comfort, we can buy things we want, we can buy things we need, and we can buy happiness. We are not going to talk about the true meaning of happiness. Generally speaking, money makes us happy.

However, blessing of God comes from our inner being. The blessing of God gives us confidence, which money cannot give us.

When I take my children to swimming pool, they want to hold on to me because they cannot swim yet. On the edge of the pool, they stand up and wait for me. When I open my arms toward them, they jump toward me. They know I will catch them. They know they are safe. They know the water is deep and it’s dangerous, but they trust me. This is faith. Although it seems

dangerous, although it looks like impossible, they have the confidence and inner peace and sure hope that they won't fall into the water because of their father.

When they were held in my arms, the game is over. They are safe. They don't have any worry, their hearts are filled with fun, excitement, joy, happiness, support, confidence, and love. What do they need more?

Abraham was given a promise from God. And he accepted the promise of God with faith.

Verse 4 (NLT), "So Abram departed as the LORD had instructed ... Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran."

Abraham showed his faith in action. He obeyed what God said to him. He left his hometown at the age of 75.

Have you thought of how wide and far people lived before the development of transportation? Before transportation such as cars, trains, or chariots, most people walked around. So, how wide they travelled for their whole lives? It's about 25 KM. This could be a small city. So, most of the people at that time would live within this range. In other words, they were born in their hometown and died in their hometown.

When God appeared to Abraham, he was 75 years old. Not young. It's not the right age to begin a new life style. It's not the right age to leave his hometown. He had his family and his whole life. Therefore, the obedience of Abraham would be something like jumping into the water without knowing how to swim. It's a ridiculous thing to do. But, by faith, Abraham listened to God and carried out his faith in action. GOD COUNTED THAT FAITH OF ABRAHAM.

Abraham was Abram. Later in Genesis, God changes the name from Abram to Abraham because of his faith trusting God. With faith, Abraham was given the new name, new identity.

God wants this kind of faith from us. And he is telling us that, "you can jump, I am right here ready to catch you." When we believe God, we can experience God's power. We can live with God's power. It's a lot better than the life we live with our own strength. We cannot compete with God.

The blessing of God is God himself. God is telling us that I am with you. I am going to help you. I am going to hold you. I am going to pour out what I have. I am going to give you my power and I am going to be with you all the time.

This is the promise of God and the blessing of God for us. So, it's FEAST with God, having POWER of God, and live with the WISDOM of God. BLESSING is being with God.

I hope and pray that we can accept God's invitation to faith, God's invitation to the blessing. Imagine my little boys jump to the water freely, without any hesitation because their father is ready to catch them. They are not able to swim. They cannot survive. They don't believe in themselves. But, with faith, they jump. At the age of 75, Abraham left his hometown. He put his whole life behind and began the new life with God. "INTO THE UNKNOWN, Abraham walked in. But, he was with God who knows the path and who guides our steps.

So, think about our faith. What hinders us to come to the faith of God, to the blessing of God?

Let us take a minute or two to respond to God personally this time.

Let us ask God to remove all the obstacles that hinder our faith. Heavenly Father, give us faith. Help our unbelief and pour out inner peace and confidence upon us, so that we can act out like little boys trusting their father. What made Abram who had stable and comfort life to leave his everything? What kind of faith is this? And do we really want that faith? Do we really want God's blessing? Do we really want to be with God?

Let's come to God personally for about 1 minute asking God how we can truly trust him.

Then, I will pray. Let us pray together. (1 min. prayer) – maybe quiet music

Let us pray.

God of love and God of grace and God of power. Father God, we thank you for providing us this beautiful worship space. In here, help us give our utmost and most heartfelt worship to you.

Through our worship, be glorified, reconcile our broken relationships with you and restore your image in us and restore your breath in us. Give us faith, so we have courage of faith in our lives.

And lastly, we want to confess that you are the best blessing we can ever have. Help us realize that being with you is the best blessing of all. Thank you for being with us. Please continue to teach us and guide us in our daily lives. In Jesus precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Prayer for the people of God

Glorious Father God, we thank you so much for your wisdom from your words. We thank you so much for calling us in your presence whether we are at home or here in the church building.

Your presence surrounds us wherever we are and your presence comforts our busy minds. We are so busy and unsettled in mind and in our daily lives. Lord, as we come into your presence, make us still. Help us see who you are and who we are.

We are coming to you with our prayers. We have worries, needs, wants, and regrets, and all kinds of things in our lives. We lay down everything before your feet. Receive them all and return us with peace and comfort with your wisdom.

First of all, we praise and worship and lift your name for Cheryl Daddis. Her cancer surgery was scheduled tomorrow, but when she had the final check-up, the cancer was gone. Thank you for removing her cancer. Thank you for your healing power for her. Please continue to be with her with your healing and recovering power. Thank you for working in our midst.

Also, we pray for the people who are suffering with their sickness. Vertigo, backpain, dementia, cancers, heart problems, breathing problem, and other diseases. We pray that you touch them.

Touch their pains and heal them. Help them recover from their sicknesses. Give them faith that you are holding them and you are comforting them and you are with them. Your love is so great and you are with them in their pains. Lord, God, release them and give them freedom from their physical pain and from their obstacles of faith.

We pray for wisdom this time. October session meeting is on this Thursday. As elders and pastor got together asking for your wisdom, grant your wisdom. Pour out your heart upon us and let us understand what you want for your precious church. After this pandemic, many things are changed. We need to be equipped for the different and new mindset of people. How are we going to continue to stand firm as your precious church? How are we going to present you to the people in current culture? How are we going to teach our new generations?

There are so many things we need to consider. With one heart, as a whole church, we want to display your amazing love through our lives. Help us. Open our minds so we follow your steps. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. The scriptures today speak of God's promise. He is making us the blessing for the whole world. In what way, are we going to bless them? Our giving is one way. Maybe the easiest way to show our thankfulness to God. Through giving our gifts to God, let us confess the LORDSHIP of our Father God who is the Giver of everything. So, eventually, we might be able to offer up our whole hearts to him. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Good and gracious God, we bring our offering in gratitude for all that makes our lives good, even in uncertain times. Bless these gifts with your Spirit and use them through the ministry and mission of our church to touch lives in need of your love and grace. Through this offering, help us give our hearts to you. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise song – Come Thou fount every blessing

Verse 1: Come, Thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace; Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love.	Verse 2: Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by Thy help I'm come; And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.	Verse 3: O, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let Thy grace, Lord, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it; Seal it for Thy courts above.
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Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. God promised us to bless us. God will be with us. He Himself is our blessing. And God made us BLESSING for the whole world. We are to show God being the best BLESSING of all. God is with us at all times.

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. AM I WITH GOD ALL THE TIME?
2. Do I want to be with God all the time?