

Worship on November 14th, 2021 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)

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: Acts 3:1-10
- Sermon: Life is B.C.D.
- The Prayer for the People of God

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP#376 Lord, the light of your love is shining

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

. Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us. This is Sunday, November 14th, 2021. As we come to the presence of our Father God, may his love and grace be experienced through our worship today.

. Funeral of Jean Buchanan is on Friday, Nov. 19, @ noon @ Thompson Funeral Home. May the peace of the Lord be upon the family. It is a small family funeral.

. Thank you for your hard works and efforts for our church's 150th Anniversary. We are on Newspaper.

. The First Sunday of Advent is in two weeks, November 28. Let us prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

. Thank you for your support with your gifts. May your gifts to God cause godly change in this world.

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 God of Wisdom calls us to worship;

All: in humility, we gather to offer our thanks and praise.

One: The God of Peace calls us to let go of our cares and worries;

All: in faith, we turn to God for hope and guidance.

One: The God of Past, Present and Future welcomes us into this moment.

All: in joy, we celebrate life in God's presence!

One: Let us worship God together.

All: Hallelujah! Let us praise the Lord!

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

Lord of Light and Life, we come before you in wonder and awe, eager to praise your name and enjoy in your presence. You are the source of all that is good and true, the essence of love. You bring gifts of peace and healing into troubled lives. You show us the way to love friend and enemy alike, to build a better world together.

In this time of worship, inspire us to believe our work in Jesus' name makes a difference. So may we live to bring you glory, O God, now and always.

God of justice and mercy, you call us to take a part in our community, loving our neighbours and serving your purposes. We confess that this is easier said than done.

We often sit in judgment on those who serve in public life, criticizing any who fall short of our expectations. Yet we confess we, too, fall short of your loving purpose for us.

Forgive us when we have been too quick to criticize and too slow to join in what needs to be done.

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! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ—and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and we are set free by God's generous grace. Share that forgiveness with others in his name.

Prayer for Illumination:

O Lord, teach us your ways and give us the grace to follow them.

Give us eyes to see the world as you do. Give us hearts to love others as you do.

And give us the wisdom to discern how best to live as followers of Jesus, your Living Word.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Acts 3:1-10

1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. 2 And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. 4 Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." 5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. 8 Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. 9 All the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."

SERMON: Life is B.C.D.!

Today's sermon title is "Life is B.C.D.!"

The Book of Acts is known as the Book of the works of the Holy Spirit. After Jesus crucified and resurrected, Jesus promised to send his Holy Spirit to his people as He ascended to the heaven. The disciples and other believers trusted the promise of Jesus. In ACTS 2, the previous chapter, – they were waiting for the Holy Spirit and praying for the Holy Spirit. **Acts 2:2, "Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit..."** They experienced the Holy Spirit.

And there were Peter and John filled with the Holy Spirit.

God sends His Spirit to us to help us to live this world with His power.

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Today's story is one the examples of the power of the Holy Spirit. There was a man who could not walk from his birth. Every day, he was put to the temple gate to beg from the people who were going into the temple.

When we sit down at the gate, just like this man from the story, we are not going into the temple and experience the presence of God. We are in front of the temple every day, but we never go into the temple and pray to God or worship God.

Isn't this so ironic, we come to church every day, but we never worship God... we only sit by the door of the church building and sit against the presence of God. We might attend worship services, but we don't come into the presence of God and experience His love and power. This man was like that! He was carried to the temple – right at the entrance of the church, but never went inside.

Let's imagine that we act out today's story like a play.

There is a man who cannot walk from his birth. Every day, he is carried to the front door of a church building.

There are Peter and John who proclaim the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

The man at the door is sitting beside the temple gate and he is begging to the people, passing by. Peter and John are about to enter the temple and see the man.

The beggar asks Peter and John for some change. But Peter and John don't want to give money to him, in fact, they might not have any. But they want to give him the name of Jesus Christ of

Nazareth because they are filled with the Holy Spirit. And which is better some coin for a sandwich or healing from God?

**V6, “Silver or Gold I do not have, but what I do have I give!
In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!”**

Peter stretches <<slide>> out his hand to the man. The man holds Peter’s hand and he gets up with his legs gaining strength, functioning properly. His legs, which never had strength to hold his body, gained power and supported him and walked! With a great joy and a surprise, the man walked around and jumped around, and praised God. The people were filled with amazement and wonder by the miraculous work of God.

Let’s look at the life of this man who could not walk from his birth. He was there at the entrance of the temple every day. He never worshiped God, but he always saw people who worshiped God. But, so far, no one had ever asked him to worship God together – they just felt pity on him and gave some coins. That was it. And he lived with that money... that was it. That was his life.

Today’s sermon title is **“LIFE IS B.C.D”**
What does this mean...? Anyone knows?

We can sum up our lives with these three alphabets. B, C, and D.
Life starts with B, and life ends with D.. and it is filled with C...
First. We begin our lives with B, BIRTH – then ends our lives with D, DEATH...
In between our BIRTH and DEATH... our lives are filled with CHOICES

If you were the man who could not walk from his birth, and Peter and John came to you.

What part of their body would you look at?

Their faces, their eyes? Their feet? OR their hands??

The beggar is not interested in who they are – he is only interested in what they will give to him!
What are they holding in their hands? Is it tooney, looney, or \$5 bill?! Or a quarter!!
He would only focus on the people’s hands.

Peter and John saw him. They approached him and found out that the beggar was only looking at people’s hands.

So, Peter said – **Look at us**. Look at me! Look into my eyes!
Silver or gold I do not have – but what I have I give you! In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, WALK!

At this moment!

If you were the man from the story..

How would you respond? What would be your choice of action!?

Would you hold Peter’s hand? Would you be able to trust the invitation of God, so that you can experience the power of God?

Or would you ignore that empty hand and look for some other hands with small changes, the hands that can satisfy your hunger for the day.

When we wait on God... what do we expect?
Successful business, happy family, healthy life,

Aren't we only looking for these things, when God can give us God's power, mercy, grace, love, acceptance, forgiveness, peace, and freedom from the power of sin!

God can change our lives. God can fill our lives with His Holy Spirit! The power of God!

When we focus on God's hands, God is waiting for us to turn our eyes to God himself. God wants us to stop looking for small changes like the man from the story. It's like the crumbs of the blessings of God. God wants to pour out his blessings upon us, but we only want the crumbs of it. We are so blinded looking for what we want.

God is calling us to be with him in his awesome presence. But we only sit at the door of the temple and become content with crumbs! We are already given much more than that!

The choice is ours now. Are we going to be satisfied with crumbs or take the whole part of blessings that we are given already?!

Like the lame man's case, people help others. People gave the man some changes, so that he was able to survive for the day or two...

But that was not all. His life's worth is much more than that!

If we choose to take the hand of God, if we accept the invitation of God, we are going to be with God in his awesome presence and great power!

Remember – God wants to give us more than we want from God... God desires to be with us. And more than we wait for God, God is waiting more for us to turn our eyes from the crumbs of God's blessing to the Giver of blessings, God Himself... Being with God is the greatest and the best blessings of all! God wants our hearts. God wants to have relationship with us.

I put the sermon title, **LIFE IS B.C.D.** and I told you from Birth to Death, our lives are filled with **choices for C**. It is true that there are full of choices in our lives.

But I will change the meaning of C.

From **Birth to Death**, our lives are to be filled with **Christ**! rather than choices.

Isn't that what we truly want?

We are given Christ, Jesus Christ of Nazareth will fill our lives with his love, power, grace, mercy, wisdom, truth, and every good gifts.

Basically, he will fill our lives with himself in the intimate relationship with him.

That is the blessing of all blessings!

I hope and pray that we stop asking God for just what we want, but begin to focus on Jesus himself, God himself, so that we are in the relationship with Christ. God desires us to be with him in relationship. I hope and pray that, as we spend time together in worship, God may dwell in our relationships and help us to open our eyes to see God.

Let's pray.

"God, open our eyes to see your face, not your hands alone. The crumbs of your blessings are good, but not as good as being with you in relationship. We want to be with you! We want to build the relationship with you. We want to deepen our relationship with you. Help our unbelief. Help our weaknesses. Fill our lives, from Birth to Death, with Christ.

God of love and grace, we thank you for your love for each one of us. Thank you for calling us to be with you and thank you for the opportunity to worship you together and the connected we have. Every day, we only looked at what we wanted from you. That was the focus of our lives.

Open our eyes to see you, not your gifts. Help us see you, the greatest blessing for us. And give us strength to walk with you, praising you, and worshipping you through our everyday lives.

Help us hold onto the message in our hearts and help us follow your steps. We want to follow you with all our hearts, with all our minds, and with all our strengths!

We want to know you more and love you more day by day. Help us. Be with us in the intimate fellowship with your Holy Spirit. Thank you that you are our God.

In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen

Prayer for the people of God

Gracious and loving Father God, our hearts are filled with our desires and needs. Sometimes, it is very tricky to discern them. At this time of prayer, fill our hearts with your wisdom, so the distinction between them become clear in our minds, so our lives are more focused to your wills.

We are so grateful for last weekend. Even in this time of difficulty, many people came out to celebrate our church's 150th anniversary. Many put a lot of effort and works to make this meaningful day special. Thank you for our love and faith toward you. May our love and faith grow more and more and we display your love and greatness through our lives. Also, as your precious church, we are desiring your name to be honoured by our lives. Hold us firmly with your strong hands and guide our steps.

We are praying for the people who are suffering with difficulties. There could be physical pain, diseases, sickness, mental struggles, financial challenges, and relational frustrations, and more. You are the Lord and you know each of us. You are the Giver of everything and you are reigning with your love and faithfulness. Help us fix our eyes upon you not the difficulties we are experiencing. Give us wisdom and courage, so we choose your ways. At this time, Lord, with your healing power, place your hands upon them and fill each one's heart with the grace they need at this time. Remind all of us with your unchanging love and faithful love and unfathomable love for us. You gave us your everything, so what more can you not give to us?!

Precious Jesus, we love you. We thank you. We praise you. Help us live in you all 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 fills the world, if only we have eyes to see it. God's goodness fills the world, if only we have hearts to share what God has given us. Know that your gifts come from God's goodness and pass that goodness along to others in Jesus' name through our offerings. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Gracious God, we bring our gifts to you with grateful hearts, aware of all that we enjoy in Christ and in creation. Bless these gifts and the service we offer in Jesus' name, so that others may share in your goodness and know of the love we have witnessed in Christ, our friend and Saviour. Amen.

Song for the Journey BOP#376 Lord, the light of your love is shining

<u>Vs. 1:</u> Lord, the light of your love is shining in the midst of the darkness shining; Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us. Set us free by the truth you now bring us.	<u>Vs. 2:</u> Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance; by your blood I may enter your brightness. Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
<u>Vs. 3:</u> As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness, ever changing from glory to glory. Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.	<u>Chorus:</u> Shine on me. Shine one me. Shine Jesus Shine! Fill this land with the Father's glory; blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our heart on fire. Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy; send forth your word, Lord and let there be light!

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. God is stretching his hand for us. Are we going to take his hand or are we going to choose some coins for our immediate needs? May the help of the Holy Spirit be with us.

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.