

**Worship on January 16, 2022** (CCLI: License Number #3156883)

(Welcoming Elder: Anne Neuman)

**Order of worship**

**We Gather**

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 688 – As water to the thirsty
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

**We Listen**

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: John 2:1-11
- Sermon: The First Miracle of Jesus
- Prayer for the people of God

**We Respond**

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 574 – With the Lord as my guide

**We Serve**

- Benediction

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**Announcements:**

. Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, January 16th, 2022. As we come and worship our Father God, may his abundant grace and goodness be poured upon us.

. 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coffee Mug, 2022 PCC Calendar are on sale. Please message Anne or Soong or your district elder.

. Prayer is unseen, yet powerful. If you have prayer needs, let us know.

Cheryl Daddis @ cheryl@pathcom.com or Soong @ revsoonghuh@hotmail.com

. Thank you for your continuing support with your gifts. As we offer our gifts to the Lord, let us give our hearts and our lives to the Lord as well. May God be in the centre of your hearts.

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: How precious is God's steadfast love!

**All: We will find refuge in the shelter of God's wings.**

One: Come and feast on God's abundance.

**All: We will drink from the river of God's delights.**

One: For with God is the fountain of life;

**All: And in God's light we will see light.**

One: Let us worship God with joy and thanksgiving!

**All: We will bring God our prayers and our praise with hearts full of love.**

**Praise song – BOP 688 – As water to the thirsty**

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| <p><b><u>Vs. 1</u></b><br/> As water to the thirsty,<br/> as beauty to the eyes,<br/> As strength that follows weakness,<br/> as truth instead of lies,<br/> as song time and springtime<br/> and summer time to be,<br/> So is my Lord, my living Lord, so is my<br/> Lord to me</p> | <p><b><u>Vs. 2</u></b><br/> Like calm in place of clamour<br/> Like peace that follows pain,<br/> Like meeting after parting,<br/> Like sunshine after rain,<br/> Like moonlight and starlight<br/> And sunlight on the sea,<br/> So is my Lord, my living Lord, so is my Lord<br/> to me</p> |
| <p><b><u>Vs. 3</u></b><br/> As sleep that follows fever,<br/> As gold instead of grey,<br/> As freedom after bondage,<br/> As sunrise to the day<br/> As home to the traveler<br/> And all we long to see,<br/> So is my Lord, my living Lord, so is my<br/> Lord to me</p>           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

**Prayer For Adoration and Confession**

God of light and life, as the new year unfolds before us, we begin to feel the sunlight coming back to brighten the winter. Our spirits grow stronger in the light. You shine your light into our lives in your Son Jesus. Your Spirit strengthens us to face whatever this year will hold. And so we come to praise you for your light which transforms our days and our lives, and for your wisdom which enlightens truth for our times. Shine through us, we pray, so that we may bear the light of Jesus in this world you love.

God of all life and our lives, we gather in worship week by week, seeking your refreshing presence. But we confess sometimes we are discouraged by things happening around us. We don't expect your presence to make a difference for us. Forgive us when we give up on you and end up feeling unfulfilled. By your grace, refresh us when we are weary or worried, and renew our trust in 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, 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. No power in heaven or on earth can separate us from God's great love. Take heart, and know that you are forgiven.

**Prayer for Illumination:**

O God, your Spirit gives us the gifts we need to hear and understand your holy Word.  
Open our ears to hear your truth, and open our hearts to receive an understanding of how to live  
that truth as we follow Jesus, your Living Word. Amen.

**Scripture: John 2:1-11**

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” 4 And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” 5 His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” 6 Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. 8 He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. 9 When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” 11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

**“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”**

**SERMON: The First Miracle of Jesus**

Today’s title is “The First miracle of Jesus.”

When you think about God, what is your emotion?

God is love. He is our loving Father God. God gives us peace. God provides our needs.

God is holy, so we are to be holy.

**Romans 14:17, “For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”**

Christians are doing great remembering God’s righteousness. However, many times, we do not focus on joy as much as we do on righteousness of God.

The theme of Jesus’ first miracle is JOY.

Water into wine. Very famous story. Jesus went to a wedding. What is the emotion in this event?

Happiness. Excitement. Joy.

During the party, no more wine. Suddenly, the emotion changes. Worry, nervous, anxiety.

No one wants the joy of the day to be stopped.

The mother of Jesus came to Jesus.

This is how today’s story begins.

Today is second Sunday after Epiphany. Epiphany is the day Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan river. From then on, Jesus gathered his disciples and began to preach the Kingdom of God. The Glory of God was with Jesus.

**V2, Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.**

Who do we invite for the party like wedding? People we like. People we want to spend time together. Jesus and his disciples were welcome. People liked them. People liked to spend time with Jesus. **Luke 15:1-2, “Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”**

Pharisees and the scribes, the religious leaders, complained about Jesus being with ‘sinners’. This means that they wanted Jesus to spend time with them. They liked to hang out with Jesus alone, but Jesus was being friends with the people they did not like.

We are the disciples of Jesus and we are carrying the image of God.

Do people around us want to spend time with us? Do they welcome us? Are we like Jesus?

Famous preacher Charles Spurgeon wrote to his students, **“Sepulchral tones may fit a man to be an undertaker, but Lazarus is not called out of his grave by hollow moans. ... I command cheerfulness to all who would win souls.”**

Be cheerful and be joyful. We have Jesus and this is enough reason to be happy and be joyful.

V3. Problem. They have no wine.

When Mary, the mother of Jesus, asked Jesus to do something, Jesus first refused. Jesus answered, **“My hours has not yet come.”** We do not know the reason why Jesus performed the first miracle on this day. But, we will focus on two important lessons from Jesus’ first miracle.

### **First. Quantity and Quality**

There were 6 stone water jars. The size of them? Each contains 20-30 gallons. This is 90-140 liters. There were 6 of them. Jesus made 540 liters to 840 liters of wine according to the Bible. Can you imagine how much wine this is? Usually, one wine bottle is 750 ml. So, it’s about 1120 bottles of wine.

How many guests would be there? And the party is getting to the end.

Also, the chief steward said this, **v10 “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.”**

Jesus turned water into high quality wine and it was too much.

Do not misunderstand me. I am not saying that if we come to Jesus he will provide all the good gifts with abundance right away. But, this shows what the heart of Jesus is like, what the love of Jesus for us is like. Jesus is willing to pour out his goodness upon us and he wants to do it lavishly.

### **Second, Christ OR Religion.**

**V6, “Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification.”**

The lack of wine caused we shift our focus to empty water jars for purification. This empty water jars and the lack of wine speak of the emptiness of religion at that time. **“Judaism still existed as a religious system [there were purifications], but it ministered no comfort to the heart. It**

**had degenerated into a cold, mechanical routine, utterly destitute of joy in God. Israel had lost the joy of their espousals.” – Arthur Pink**

The emptiness of religion means the absence of Jesus. They kept the system, but no Jesus. It is like you have a pen, but no ink. A marriage without love.

Religion is a cold and lifeless thing. Apart from the joy Jesus brings to us, religion is joyless and it hardens our hearts and our personalities. What do we have in our hearts, religion or Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ is the only one who can quench the hunger and thirst of our hearts. He is the only one can give true and everlasting joy in our hearts.

**Let us pray.**

Lord Jesus, we are empty. Come into our hearts. Pour out your water upon us.

Restore the joy of your salvation in our hearts. We want joy in our hearts.

Although we have joy in our hearts, we sometimes choose religion instead of Jesus Christ.

Heavenly Father, help us know your love. Your love is ready for us. Your love is already poured out upon us. We already have your love. Help us open our hearts and enjoy your love. We are yours. And you are ours. Be glorified. We love you Lord. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

**Prayer for the people of God**

Gracious loving Father God, we come to your presence for your love is never failing. We rely upon your love. At this time, as we lay down our hearts before you, listen to our prayer and grant us what you have stored for us. Give us wisdom, so we discern your voice among many distractions in our hearts.

First of all, we pray for school. From tomorrow, students are going back to school. They will interact with many people. Protect them from this virus. Increase their immune system. Give them power to overcome. Also, help them build community immune system, so they are safe. Lord, have mercy upon teachers, staff members, and students, as well as the educational system leaders. We need your mercy. We need your help. As students go back to school, help them learn and grow in you. As teachers interact with them, fill their hearts with love and patience, so they embrace students with your heart.

We also pray for our people, our congregation. If there are sickness, with your love and power, heal them. Be in their hearts, pour out your peace and love. Be in their bodies, hold them with your healing power. Be in their situations, be the Lord of their lives and give them your eyes. Help us overcome our life's situations with you. Thank you that you are with us. Protect our members and embrace them.

Gracious God, thank you for desiring us. Thank you for wanting us. We desire you too. We too want you. You are the tree and we are the branches. We remain in you. Be lifted up through our lives. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

**Invitation to the offering:** This is the time for offering.

God offers us many gifts through the same Spirit so that, together, we may serve in Jesus' name. Trust that what you have to give, God will bless in faithfulness and fruitfulness. Let us pray for our offering.

**Offering prayer:**

God of grace and mercy, receive all our gifts, offered in thanksgiving. We share the fruit of our labours with you, asking that you will multiply their effects in and through the Church. And we share the fruit of our time and talent, seeking to know how you would have us serve in Jesus' name. Precious God, be glorified through all we do. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**Song for the Journey BOP# 574 With the Lord as my guide**

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| <p>Vs. 1<br/> With the Lord as my guide<br/> I will walk through the desert rest by the water, run in the wind.<br/> With the Lord by my side I will stand on the mountain, drink from the fountain of love deep within</p> | <p>Vs. 2<br/> With the Lord as my guide I will see all the talents, accept the balance of who I am.<br/> With the Lord by my side say yes to the calling, fear not the falling, trust in God's plan</p> |
| <p>Vs. 3<br/> With the Lord as my guide I will work with my sister care for my brother, bend with their pain.<br/> With the Lord by my side we will rise up together, strengthen each other, courage regain</p>             | <p>Vs. 4<br/> With the Lord as my guide I will rise in the morning, praise for the dawning beauty of day<br/> With the Lor by my side I will sing, sing forever always a lover, seeking God's way</p>   |

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. Do we have joy in our hearts? God's love was poured out upon us. We have his love. His love is good and his love is unending. Have Christ in your hearts and have joy of his love.

**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.