

Worship on January 23, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)

(Welcoming Elder: Anne Neuman)

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 495 The heaven declare your glory, Lord
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Luke 4:14-22
- Sermon: The Rescue Mission of Jesus
- Prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – O for a thousand tongues to sing

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

. Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, January 23rd, 2022. God is with us. Let us feel and experience his presence as we come to him.

. Wednesday, Jan. 26, there will be the Session meeting. Please pray for the elders.

. 150th 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: In mystery and grandeur,

All: we encounter the God of all creation.

One: In renewed justice and the promise of new life,

All: we know deep love of Christ.

One: In the wonderful diversity in every community,

All: the Spirit of God moves among us.

One: Let us worship the God of beauty, love, and wisdom.

All: We will praise God, ever Three and ever One, now and always.

Praise song – BOP 495 – The heaven declare your glory, Lord

<u>Vs. 1</u> The heaven declare your glory, Lord In every star your wisdom shines, But when our eyes behold your word, We read your name in clearer lines.	<u>Vs. 2</u> Sun, moon and stars convey your praise to all the earth, And never stand, so when your truth began its race, it touched and glanced on every land.
<u>Vs. 3</u> Nor shall your spreading gospel rest till through the world your truth has run, Till Christ has all the nations blest who see the light or feel the sun.	<u>Vs. 4</u> Great sun of righteousness, Arise and bless the world with heavenly light! Your gospel makes the simple wise; Your laws are pure, your judgments right
<u>Vs. 5</u> Your noblest wonders here we view in souls renewed and sins forgiven: Lord, cleanse my sins, my soul renew, And make your word my guide to heaven	

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Creator, Christ and Spirit; You are the maker of a better world. You are the creator of lasting peace. We worship you for the gifts of peace and healing that You bring into troubled lives. You have shown us the way to work for justice, to love friends and enemies alike, to build a better world.

In this time of worship, inspire us to believe our work in your name makes a difference. So may we live to bring glory to you through our commitment to you and the communion we share with so many around world as your faithful disciples.

God of grace and unity, we confess we can be divisive when you have called us to unity, quarrelsome when you call us to seek peace, and critical rather than caring. We have grown used to our own ways and cannot imagine you would ask us to change even for the sake of the Gospel. Forgive us when we mistake our familiar traditions for your truth. Show us how we can witness to your love through working and worshipping together.

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, God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. It shines into the world and scatters the darkness. Know that you are forgiven and forgive one another. Be at peace and walk in the newness of life, led by God's light.

Prayer for Illumination:

Holy One, no wisdom or truth comes apart from you and so we seek your guidance as your Word is read and interpreted. Send your Holy Spirit to move in and among us so that we might better understand your word for us this day, and act upon it for the sake of Christ, your Living Word. Amen

Scripture: Luke 4:14-22

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²² Everyone spoke well of him and was amazed by the gracious words that came from his lips. “How can this be?” they asked. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?”

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

SERMON: The Rescue Mission of Jesus

Today’s title is “The Rescue Mission of Jesus.”

Paw Patrol. It’s children cartoon. My little boys like it. It’s like puppies becoming 911 rescue team. Whenever something bad happens, they call Ryder, who is like the captain of the Paw Patrol. Ryder calls puppies. “Paw Patrol to the Lookout.” Then, all the puppies say, **“Ryder needs us.”**

I watched this cartoon for many years, but this sentence “Ryder needs us,” stood up for the first time. This one sentence captured my attention as I was thinking about today’s passage.

These puppies do not care about who’s in trouble. They don’t ask what happened. They only care about Ryder. Ryder needs us.

I thought Paw Patrol is like Jesus. Jesus does not care about our circumstances. Jesus does not care about our ability. Jesus does not care about what problems we are facing. Jesus only looks at us NOW. Jesus only cares about the fact that we need him. “Oh, Soong needs me.” “Oh Kambiz needs me.” “Oh Kevin needs me.” “Oh Marion needs me.”

My dear daughter needs me. My dear son needs me.

This is the only thing Jesus cares about.

Of course Jesus cares about our situations, our personalities, our problems, and everything about us. But, what I am saying right now is that Jesus’ urgent priority is to rescue us first. Like the Paw Patrol does not care about anything but Ryder, Jesus does not care about anything but us.

I call today's passage **The Mission Statement of Jesus**. Let us take a look at the mission statement of Jesus. Let's read V18-21.

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." 20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

V18 and 19 is from prophet Isaiah, 61:1-2. The prophecy speaks of care for the downcast, freedom, healing, and rescue. It is the celebratory announcement that the time of God's salvation has arrived. It is the declaration of what Jesus would do from now on as he begins his ministry. Jesus is not alone in his ministry. The Holy Spirit anointed Jesus to carry out his mission. The prophecies of God in the Old Testament were fulfilled by Jesus. God sent Jesus to us in order to rescue us. Jesus is showing the love and glory of the Father God, the Son God, and the Holy Spirit God through this passage.

What is our response to this? We are told the reason why Jesus came for us. This is the goal of Jesus. **V22: "Everyone spoke well of him and was amazed by the gracious words that came from his lips. "How can this be?" they asked. "Isn't this Joseph's son?"**

They were amazed. But, thinking about who Jesus was, they had hard time accepting Jesus' marvellous saying. This is Jesus' hometown. They knew Jesus from his birth. They knew Jesus' family. They grew up together. They knew each other. But, all of the sudden, Jesus is proclaiming the glory of God. When your spouse teach you something, how well do you listen? If you were like me, you would say, in your mind, "why don't you." If you know someone too well, it is hard to plainly accept one's teaching because we know their weaknesses.

Jesus knew how the people would react. Yet, he still proclaimed his mission statement for people.

V21, Jesus said, **"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."**

At that time, people were waiting for the Coming Messiah who was to accomplish all the scriptures of the Old Testament. So, this sentence, **"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."** is same as Jesus is saying that I am the Messiah that you were waiting for.

Wow. If you were the close friend of Jesus from birth, how would you react? Will you be able to accept what Jesus is saying?

Jesus knew the audience. It is good saying, but it is hard for them to accept it. But, Jesus still says it. Why? The reason is this.

Our response cannot make any difference what Jesus is going to do. Because we are not putting any energy in Jesus' ministry. Jesus will carry out his rescue mission for us whether we say yes or no. If someone is about to fall down from a cliff, we don't ask them whether he wants us to

save him or not. If there's a fire in the house, people cannot go in and take out the stuff they want. We need to make them come out first. We need to do what is urgent, not something we want.

When we need to be rescued, whether we like it or not, Jesus will rescue us.

When Paw Patrol go and save the situations, sometimes, they don't want help. For example, a cat in a tree top. The cat is too scared to come down. The cat wants to hold on to the tree out of the fear of height. The cat needs to let go of his own way, and follow the rescuers' way.

Who do we listen to and where is our focus?

Jesus tells us to surrender what we think is right. He tells us to submit ourselves to his perfect plan. We can count on him.

What are we holding on to? Are we still saying **"How can it be? Isn't this Joseph's son?"** Giving up what we want and what we expect is very very hard. But, when we find out we cannot help ourselves, we need to accept the help from outside. Jesus is ready to rescue us. Accept his hand. He is reaching out his hand to save you.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, thank you for coming to rescue us. We focus what we want. Our wants in our hearts are too big, so sometimes, we cannot give our hearts to you. But, now we know that we need you the most. We believe that you know us better than we know ourselves. Father God, open our hearts so we may remain in you. Help us give up our own ways. Give us faith trusting you with our whole hearts and in our actions.

Thank you for coming to rescue us. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Prayer for the people of God

God, your grace and love never fails. Your plans are perfect. We are amazed by your wisdom and power sustaining all your creation and each of our lives. As we pray, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, so we may pour out our whole hearts to you and fill our hearts with you.

Last week, we are sadden hearing the news of 4 death, including an infant, while walking across the border in the freezing weather. Loving Father God, we are sorry for the injustice, selfishness, and sin-filled hearts. We are sorry that we were ignorant of the desperate needs of our neighbours. We were too busy to meet our wants and needs. From this sad tragedy, let us begin to look around and share our love from you. Help give up just a little bit of our comfort and our selfishness, so we can make your world better, so that we can help the people in need, so that we can stop unnecessary deaths. Have mercy upon the people who are in desperate need.

Also, Lord, in these continuing cold days, protect us. Help us take good care of ourselves and help us have a space in our hearts for the people in need around us.

God Immanuel, God with us. We pray for our church family. Be with each person, and each family with your love and with your wisdom, and with your power. If there are struggling with our faith, be in their hearts, comfort them, embrace them, and heal them. If there are pains in

their bodies, touch them with your healing hand, heal them, and set them free from their pains. If there are relational frustrations, fill their hearts with peace, shalom, and restore your image in them, so the love and grace and mercy are flourishing in relationships. Also, if there are difficult situations, hold their hands, with your powerful presence, help them overcome the difficulties. Strengthen them.

Lord, there will be the Session Meeting in few days. Fill the hearts of elders with your wisdom and power, so as they take care of your church, their hearts be filled with the joy and gratitude which comes from you alone. Help our church, so we may shine your light into this dark world.

We are carrying your image. We are carrying your light. We are carrying your name. we are yours. Be praised and be glorified through our lives. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

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

The Apostle Paul reminds us that we are part of one body, each of us and all of us.

The gifts we offer in Jesus' name are all needed, each of them and all of them.

Together, the body of Christ accomplishes many things through the gifts we share. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Creator God, you made each of us in our uniqueness,
and together, all of us to bear your image in the world.

Accept our gifts, unique as they are, and bless them for the sake of your Son, Jesus.

May they bear his grace and mercy into the world you love so your purposes will be fulfilled.

In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Vs. 1 O for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise The glories of my God and King The triumphs of His grace	Vs. 2 Jesus! The name that charms our fears That bids our sorrows cease, 'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'Tis life and health and peace
Vs. 3 He breaks the power of canceled sin, He sets the prisoners free; His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood availed for me	Vs. 4 Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb Your loosened tongues employ; Ye blind, behold your Saviour come; and leap, ye lame, for joy.
Vs. 5 My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim, To spread thro' all the earth abroad, The honours of Thy name	

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. Jesus teaches us his ways. He shows us how to live. Giving up what is mine is painful. Yet, if we accept Jesus, we will experience his saving power and 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.