

Worship on March 27, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)

(Welcoming Elder: Edwin Webster)

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 199 If I have been the source of pain
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Prayer for our children
- Praise song – He will come and save you

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- Sermon: For our sake
- The Prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 315 A mighty fortress is our God

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

. Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, March 27th, 2022. God is making us new every day. May all of us experience God's love which is unending and abundant as we worship him together wholeheartedly.

. The Session meeting will be on March 30th. Please pray for the wisdom of God upon the Session.

. Robert Kennedy is hospitalized. Please pray for him as well as people who are ill.

. Rev. Soong will have his office hours on Wednesday from 9am-12pm. He can talk to you on the phone or meet and talk to you in person. Please let him know.

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

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

. Please help Ukraine with donation and prayer, and support the Aurora Food Pantry and Food Bank.

. 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: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation!

All: Thanks be to God for such great mercy.

One: Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

All: Thanks be to God for new beginnings!

One: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation through Christ Jesus.

All: Together we will make a new beginning in Christ!

One: Let us worship God with joyful hearts, trusting God to renew us and all things.

All: We will lift our praises to God with hearts refreshed by grace.

Praise song – BOP 199 – If I have been the source of pain

<u>Vs. 1</u> If I have been the source of pain, O God, If to the weak I have refused my strength, If in rebellion I have strayed away, Forgive me, God.	<u>Vs. 2</u> If I have spoken words of cruelty, If I have left some suffering unrelieved, Condemn not my insensitivity; Forgive me, God.
<u>Vs. 3</u> If I've insisted on a peaceful life, Far from the struggles that the gospel brings, When you prefer to guide me to the strife, Forgive me, God.	<u>Vs. 4</u> Receive, O God, this ardent word of prayer, And free me from temptation's subtle snare; With tender patience, lead me to your care, Amen, amen.

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God of Mystery and Mercy, we gather to worship you in humility and hope because we believe you have the power to change the world; to change the world for the better with your love.

We gather to worship you trusting that no one or situation is beyond your concern, or your embrace. Such love astonishes us. Without your grace we cannot imagine such love.

Inspire us with a vision of love which will change the world and our lives through the love and mercy we meet in Jesus Christ, your Son and our Saviour.

God of love and grace and mercy, when we pause for a moment in your presence, the daily details of our lives press in on us. We recall things left undone, opportunities ignored.

We remember careless words spoken, disappointments that trouble our souls.

Forgive our misspent moments and missed opportunities. We hold on to your faithfulness and we look upon you at this time of worship.

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, Remember the promise that the apostle Paul declares:

What can separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship? Distress? Peril or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through the God who loves us.

Neither death nor life, things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God for such a promise! The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. Let us take few moments to share our peace to each other. (do not go around, but look around and share peace.)

Prayer for children

Loving Father God, we thank you so much for calling us your children. Thank you so much for bringing these precious children and youth to your love. Thank you for saving them and making them new. As they learn about you, help them have you in their hearts. Help them live out what they learn. Thank you. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: He will come and save you

<u>Vs. 1</u> Say to those who are fearful-hearted Do not be afraid the Lord your God is strong With His mighty arms when you call on His name He will come and save	<u>Chorus</u> He will come and save you He will come and save you Say to the weary one Your God will surely come He will come and save you He will come and save you He will come and save you Lift up your eyes to Him You will arise again He will come and save you
<u>Vs. 2</u> Say to those who are broken hearted Do not lose your faith the Lord your God is strong With His loving arms when you call on His name He will come and save	<u>Bridge</u> He is our refuge in the day of trouble He is our shelter in the time of storm He is our tower in the day of sorrow Our fortress in the time of war

Prayer for Illumination:

Soften our hearts, O God, as we listen to the words of scripture, so that our hearts may become fertile soil in which you plant your living Word. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. 17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

SERMON: For Our Sake

Today's passage is very famous. We hear today's passage nearly every time we talk about new start. "The old has passed away! Behold, the new has come!"

Today's passage is not just a new beginning, but it is **the new beginning in Christ**.

Today's sermon title is "**For Our Sake.**"

Old and new. We think about becoming new from something old. So, between OLD and NEW, there is change. When we say becoming new to a person, usually, the person converts from something bad, not just old. So, when someone became a good person from a bad person, we say that person is new. So, many times, between old and new, there is conversion relating FORGIVENESS.

This is from my daily reading, Charles Stanley writes, "When someone repeatedly wrongs us, we often try to draw a line at the number of times we will accept apologies. In other situations, we may attempt to categorize which offenses we will pardon. BUT, Jesus drew no such lines at the cross. God's unconditional pardon of our sins means that our forgiveness toward others should likewise have no limitations."

V16, From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

We know that Jesus forgives. We try to forgive, but we were not able to forgive like Jesus forgave us. First we did not know about the forgiveness of Jesus. We drew a line to people. Then, we knew Jesus. And we were told about the forgiveness of Jesus. We try to forgive them, but we realize that we cannot pardon others with our own hearts. Our hearts did not have power. We always look for conditions. We hit our limitations. But, as we come to the deeper knowledge of God and the forgiveness of Jesus, we realize that there is no condition in the forgive of Jesus. There is no limit in the forgiveness of Jesus.

V17, So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

So, if anyone is in Christ!

How can you be IN CHRIST? Can we come into some kind of space or time? NO!

The Bible is talking about becoming one with Christ through repentance and faith trusting the forgiveness of Jesus. The key word is IN CHRIST.

Are you in Christ?

Old? New? Important! But, without being IN CHRIST, it's nothing. We cannot become truly NEW.

To be new, what needs to come first? OLD has to go away, so NEW can come.

Think about a cup filled with dirty water. How do you make it clean? Pour out old water and pour in new clean water. This is what we do.

ONLY IF we have the control over it. Only if we have enough power.

But, think about our OLD. What does it mean? Our sinful nature, selfishness. Our mistakes. Our weakness. Can we get rid of them by own our power?

Humanity's biggest problem is war, disease, poverty, and environmental pollution.

What would you say if I ask you to tell me the one cause of all the problems we are experiencing?

It is us. Our inner nature. Our sinful and selfish nature.

This is our OLD which we don't have any control over it. We don't have any power to change it.

V18-19, All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

There is a cup filled with dirty water. The cup cannot pour out the dirty water by itself. Someone has to lift up the cup and pour out dirty water. If the cup cannot be moved, how do we make it clean? Pour out clean water until all the dirty water is gone. Pour out clean water lavishly until it becomes clean. This is how God changes us. God pours out his love endlessly upon us, in our dirty cup.

We are connected to the source of water which never dries up. This is God making us clean and this is God reconciling us to himself through Christ. This is our conversion. This is our change from OLD self to NEW self. Our relationship with God was broken because of our sinful nature. But our relationship with God was reconnected, it is reconciled by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. He became the bridge between us and God. God is pouring out his love of clean water in our dirty cup of our sinful nature. For our sake, God is making us new.

Furthermore, God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. God is reconciling the world to himself in Christ entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. God is using us. God wants us to be his instruments.

We are not only made NEW but also we are entrusted the ministry of making the world NEW in Christ. God wants to hold our hands in the works of his salvation work for the whole world.

WOW! The forgiveness of God is granted to us to become the witness of the forgiveness of God for us to the whole world. We are to speak out loud the grace of God, endlessly forgiving us.

20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

God is making his urgent request of receiving the forgiveness of God to the whole world.

Apostle Paul is asking us to receive the forgiveness of God from the bottom of his heart.

We have sinful nature, but we are not made to remain in sin and darkness. We have a bridge in front of us.

For our sake, Jesus who knew no sin became sin. For our sake, Jesus came and died and opened the way of intimacy with God. For our sake, Jesus reconciled our relationship with God.

Remember what Jesus did for our sake and accept the forgiveness of God. Become new in Christ. And spread out this good news to the people around you. Let us display God's love poured out for us.

This is the word of the Lord for us today.

Prayer for the people of God

God of love and grace and forgiveness. Your love is poured upon us. Your life was poured upon us for our sake. For our sake, God, you gave your everything. For our sake, you made us new. We are tend to go back to our old sinful selves. But, you are still inviting us to come to you. You are still trying to have our attention back to you. You are powerful God. Nothing is impossible for you. But, still, you treat us with respect. You are careful asking our love back for you. You are an amazing God with unending love for us. Thank you God.

We are praying for your church. You called us and you made us church. You built the connection we have. You filled our hearts with love for you and love for each other. May your presence continue to be with us, so we shine your light to the world and make the world more tastier by becoming your salt.

We pray for our congregants. There are people who are experiencing physical pain and sickness. Lord God, can you come into their body and hearts and heal them? Be present with each of them and hold them in your arms. Place your healing hands upon them and heal them. Recover their health. Be with all the medicines they take. Be with all the medical people who are treating them. Lord, please, have mercy upon them.

We also pray for the people who are tired and weary. Be in their hearts and let them cast out their burdens to you. Jesus, you promised that you will carry our burdens. You will free us. We long for freedom, true freedom in you. You came to us. You brought your kingdom. Your heaven came down to us. Help us give our hearts to you and live in your heaven.

We pray for the people having difficulties in their lives. Lord God, help us lean on you.

Powerful God and God of wisdom. We will have the Session meeting next week. There are many things we have to take care of for your church. Give us your love in our hearts. Give us wisdom as we make important decisions. Help us do all things for you. We give what we have to you. We serve you with our hearts. Take good care of our lives and fill us with you.

We pray for peace where there is war. Change the hearts of the people who are continuing the war. Convert their old hearts and make them new. Protect the people and provide them their needs. Help us care and start making changes from our daily lives.

Thank you Lord. Be the Lord and King in our lives. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

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

The Apostle Paul declared that in Christ there is a new creation. Everything has become new! What new things can God do with the gifts we offer today?

With expectant hearts, let us place in God's hands what we have to offer in Christ's name. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

We place these gifts into your hands, O God. Bless them with your transforming grace so that they may become seeds springing up with new life in the world you love.

Fill our hearts with that same grace so we can bring hope to weary and worried lives in Jesus' name. Be praised and be lifted up. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey BOP 315 – A mighty fortress is our God

<u>Vs. 1</u> A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing: For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal.	<u>Vs. 2</u> Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing; Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing: Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He; Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same, And He must win the battle.
<u>Bridge</u> A mighty fortress A mighty fortress is our God	<u>Vs. 4</u> That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth; The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth: Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still, His kingdom is forever.

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. For our sake, our Father God sent his own son Jesus Christ. For our sake, Jesus died on the cross and opened the way to love and freedom. For our sake, the Holy Spirit dwells within us. With the love of God, let us display him through 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.