

Worship on April 3, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)

(Welcoming Elder: Anne Neuman)

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – A wonderful Saviour is Jesus, my Lord
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Prayer for our children
- Praise song – BOP 588 A prophet-woman broke a jar

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: John 12:1-8
- Sermon: Overcome death with love
- The Lord's Table

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – I surrender all

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

. Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, April 3rd, 2022. This is the fifth Sunday of Lent. Invite Jesus in the centre of our Heart. And let him be our King and Lord as we worship him together.

. During today's worship, there will be Communion at the Lord's Table. Please pick up the prepacked elements or prepare your own.

. Please continue to pray for people who are ill.

. We will have coffee time after worship service from Easter Sunday.

. Rev. Soong has his office hours on Wednesday from 9am-12pm. If you need him, 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: God says to us: I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers flow in the desert.

All: The LORD does great things for us, and we rejoice.

One: God says to us: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

All: The LORD does great things for us, and we rejoice.

One: God says to us: I am about to do a new thing.

All: The LORD does great things for us, and so we worship God with songs of joy and prayers of thanksgiving.

Praise song – A Wonderful Saviour Is Jesus My Lord

<u>Vs. 1</u> A wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord A wonderful Saviour to me He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, Where rivers of pleasure I see He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, that shadows a dry, thirsty land; He hideth my life in the depths of His love And covers me there with His hands	<u>Vs. 2</u> A wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord He taketh my burden away He holdeth me up, and I shall not be moved, He giveth me strength as my day He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, that shadows a dry, thirsty land; He hideth my life in the depths of His love And covers me there with His hands
<u>Vs. 3</u> With numberless blessings each moment He crowns, and filled with His fullness divine I sing in my rapture; O glory to God For such a Redeemer as mine! He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, that shadows a dry, thirsty land; He hideth my life in the depths of His love And covers me there with His hands	<u>Vs. 4</u> When, clothed in His brightness, transported I rise to meet Him in clouds of the sky, His perfect salvation, his wonderful love, I'll shout with the millions on high He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, that shadows a dry, thirsty land; He hideth my life in the depths of His love And covers me there with His hands

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

O God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life, we come to you today with grateful hearts, cheered by the return of spring, days lengthening, the sun's warmth growing stronger.

We praise you for your creation and its reliable rhythms.

We praise you for Christ and his ministry that we seek to continue; we seek the light of the hope he offers. Break into these days of turmoil and uncertainty with the mercy and grace we meet in Jesus. By the power of your Spirit, lighten our hearts in this time of worship, and help us brighten the lives we touch this week in Jesus' name.

And so we praise you, O God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life, and offer you all glory and honour, this day and every day, now and evermore.

Lord Jesus Christ, we gather in your name today, aware that you keep moving closer and closer to the cross. We confess it is not easy to follow your story. Your willingness to give yourself inspired some to give of themselves, while others hesitated or criticized. We confess we often struggle to decide what to give, whom to help. We can be critical of those in need and those who

help them. Forgive us when we look for reasons not to share, and excuse ourselves from acting generously, as you did. Lord Jesus, help us.

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, Hear the good news! Apostle Paul reminds us that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The Spirit of life in Christ Jesus sets us free from the power of sin and death. Know that you are forgiven and live as forgiven people, forgiving one another. 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

God of love and grace, thank you for this beautiful spring day. Thank you that we have hope for the future. We are praying for these precious children and youth. They are our future. Heavenly Father, teach them your love. Teach them your grace. And establish the loving relationship with them, so they experience the intimacy with you. Open their hearts as they learn the lesson and help them live out your truth. And pour out your power and grace upon those who serve these precious lives. Be blessed and be praised. You are amazing. Thank you. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: BOP 588 A prophet woman broke a jar

<u>Vs. 1</u> A prophet woman broke a jar By love's divine appointing With rare perfume she filled the room Presiding and anointing A prophet woman broke a jar The sneers of scorn defying With rare perfume she filled the room Preparing Christ for dying	<u>Vs. 2</u> A faithful woman left a tomb By love's divine commission She saw she heard she preached the word Arising from submission A faithful woman left a tomb With resurrection gospel She saw she heard she preached the word Apostle to apostles
<u>Vs. 3</u> Though woman wisdom woman truth For centuries were hidden Unsung unwritten and unheard Derided and forbidden The spirit's breath the Spirit's fire On free and slave descending Can tumble our dividing walls Our shame and sadness mending	<u>Vs. 4</u> The Spirit knows the Spirit calls By love's divine ordaining The friends we need to serve and lead Their powers and gifts unchaining The Spirit knows the Spirit calls From women men and children The friends we need to serve and lead Rejoice and make them welcome

Prayer for Illumination:

Creator God, you spoke and light appeared in chaotic nothingness. Your Word became flesh in Jesus Christ and lived among us. Speak again with the power of the Holy Spirit through the

Scriptures, read and interpreted, and transform our understanding so that our lives may more fully conform to your Living Word. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen

Scripture: John 12:1-8

1 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. 3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" 6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) 7 Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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

SERMON: Overcoming death with love

We are approaching to Easter Sunday. The end of the journey of this lent. This special time of remembering the love of God involves crisis, which is the death of Jesus Christ. Jesus lived with his disciples for three years. Not a short time, but in the light of the length of the whole life, it might not be a long time. So, no one thought of the end yet. But, all of the sudden, in today's scripture, Jesus talks about his burial.

Today is the fifth Sunday of Lent. Next week is Palm Sunday, which Jesus enters Jerusalem in order to suffer and die. And on April 15th, Good Friday, the day Jesus was crucified on the cross. And finally, April 17th, two weeks from now, Easter Sunday, Jesus was risen on that day.

Lent. We talk about love. We talk about death, sacrifice, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. What do you have in your mind as you are going through this season of Lent?

This week, in my mind, I had the idea of waiting, anxiety, and trust. When the disciples of Jesus heard Jesus mentioning his burial, they would have the emotion of anxiety and surprise that comes from unexpected thing. But, Jesus was firm. And he even goes further. If you think about helping others, you will always have them around you, but not me.

Today's sermon title is "**Overcoming death with love**."

Jesus went to where Lazarus lived whom he raised from the dead. He was dead for four days. Today, his sisters, Martha and Mary, happily greeted Jesus. Three siblings, Lazarus, Martha, and Mary, all responded differently as they have Jesus in their home. Lazarus sat with Jesus and his disciples. Martha served the meal. And Mary, she is an interesting one. **V3, Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.**

Pour out perfume on Jesus feet?

Hmm, okay. Washing feet was important at that time because they wore sandals on dusty road. So, they usually prepared water, so guests can wash their feet. But, this is different. Perfume?

For what? And if you want to anoint someone, why not head? King, prophet, and priest were anointed by oil on their heads as the sign of their induction. They were blessed with oil. But, Mary anointed pure nard oil on Jesus' feet, not head.

What comes on your mind?

My first thought was strange. And I still think it is strange. It is strange.

But, it is in the Bible for a reason. Strangely, Mary did not use any rag, a cloth. But, she used her hair. Wiping out something with hair? Hair is not absorbent. It is not useful to make something clean. The purpose was not absorb the perfume, but it was to spread out fragrance. Also, picture this event and imagine the smell of nard filling the entire room.

Smell is one of the most powerful senses we can use. Certain smells take us back to the feelings that we are in certain places. For example, the smell of chlorine takes us to the memories of indoor swimming pool. Or the smell of pine trees can take us back to the memories of our livingroom with Christmas tree and decorations.

This smell of one pound nard oil poured out is not something we can slightly smell. It filled the entire room and it is immersive experience of strong sense of smell. You feel like you became nard oil.

This is the time Jesus is thinking of his death. This fifth of Sunday of Lent comes right before Palm Sunday, which Jesus walks toward death. So, the smell of death is slowly coming to us.

When we are turning our attention to death, Mary interrupts. When we begin to sense of the smell of death, <<slide>>**Mary poured out sweet fragrance of nard.** When the suffering of Jesus is approaching, Mary snuggled up Jesus' feet, trying to hold him back.

Mary poured out perfume, but, in fact, Mary poured out her love, the love filled with thankfulness, the uncontrollable love, the love with passion, the love never be compared with anything. **Pure Love.** She poured out her everything. Judah Iscariot yells, in **v 5, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii?"** Three hundred denarii would be nearly a year's wages for a labourer. This would be Mary's preparation for her marriage.

Also, to wash Jesus' feet, where should she be? She has to kneel down on the ground.

Kneeling down. When do you kneel down? To show someone your honour.

To lift up somebody and to acknowledge someone's worth.

In **Revelation 5:8, "The four creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb."**

This is a small part of the picture of heavenly worship. When worshipping in heaven, they fell before the Lamb. We are going to kneel down before Jesus.

What Mary is doing right now is worshipping Jesus and honouring Jesus. By pouring out all she had, she is confessing that Jesus is more precious than her own life.

What are we pouring out for Jesus? What are we thankful for Jesus?

How do we express our thankfulness?

How do we spread out the love of Jesus to the people around us?

How do we lift up Jesus?

How precious is Jesus to us?

Jesus died on our place. Jesus died instead of us. Jesus poured out his life for us. Jesus gave his most precious life for us. Mary, with thankful heart, honoured Jesus with the most precious thing she had. Let us spend some time for Jesus this week pondering upon his love for us.

This is the word of the Lord for us today.

The Lord's Table THIS is time for the Communion at the Lord's Table.

You are loved by God. Beloved in the Lord, as we draw near to the Lord's Table, we are to consider the great benefits of this Sacrament for those who come in faith and repentance, and those who hunger and thirst after Christ. Those who, putting their trust in Christ, desire to lead a new life, and to mature with the gifts of grace, are invited and encouraged to come to the Supper of the Lord for their spiritual refreshment and renewal of strength.

(Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:) **(Please say BOLD print together)**

L: The Lord be with you. **ALL: And also, with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: You call your people to repentance, to renew their covenant with you and to prepare for the joyful victory feast of the Lamb who is slain. How wonderful are your ways, almighty God. How marvellous is your name, O Holy One. You alone are God. Therefore with apostles and prophets, and that great cloud of witnesses who live for you beyond all time and space, **we lift our hearts in joyful praises.**

(Sanctus) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L: We praise you, most holy God, for sending your only Son Jesus to live among us, full of grace and truth. Sharing our joy and sorrow, he healed the sick and was a friend of sinners. Obeying you, he took up his cross and died that we might live. We praise you that he overcame death and is risen to rule the world. He is still the friend of sinners. We trust him to overcome every power that can hurt or divide us, and believe that when he comes in glory we will celebrate victory with him. In remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we take this bread and this cup and give you praise and thanksgiving **as we proclaim the mystery of faith:**

P: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

L: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine, that we, and all who share this feast, may be one with Christ and be with us. Here we offer ourselves to be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you. In your mercy, accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Fill us with the joy of eternal life, that we may be your faithful people until we feast with you in glory.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, almighty God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the BREAD and Pouring the WINE – prepare your Bread and Wine

Take, eat, remember, and believe that the precious body of our King and Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (BREAD)

“This is the **body** of Christ, broken for you.” (Let us take it)

Take, drink, remember, and believe that the precious blood of our King and Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (CUP)

“This is the **blood** of Christ, poured out for you.” (Let us drink it)

Prayer after Communion:

We praise and worship you O gracious Father God. We lift up your name on high. We lift our voice to praise you. What an amazing God we have. What a wonderful love we have received from you. Thank you for your love. We cannot thank you enough. Like Mary in today’s message, we just kneel down before you and lay ourselves. We offer up our lives into your hands. Receive us and use us. Restore us and help us experience your presence in our lives.

We are coming to you with our hearts desires. Merciful God, listen to our pleas and answer us in your way and in your time. We might not be able to understand your answers, but we believe that your answers are the best ones for us. Give us faith.

We pray for the people who are experiencing physical illnesses. Loving Father God, help them. Place your hands upon their bodies, upon their hearts, upon their souls, upon their emotions, upon their families, upon their hours, moments, and reveal yourself to them. Show your love and your power. Heal them. Remove pains. Help them engage with you with their whole being through this time of difficulty.

We also pray for faith. We are influenced heavily by this culture. This culture teaches us to focus on me, to have more, to spend more, to boast more. Many times, because of the strong current of this culture, we stumble. We fall. We become weak. We lose focus. We turn around from you. Chaos. Disorder. Sadness. Depressed feelings. Seeking fleshly desires. We become.

Through this worship Lord. Be the KING of our hearts. Be the Lord of our lives. Can you come into the centre of our hearts? Can you help us step down from the throne of our hearts? Can you sit and help us worship you with our sincere hearts?

We are weak. We fall. Hold our hands Lord. Help us look upon YOU. Help us re-focus our life to you alone.

We want to worship you, but we have too many things going on inside our hearts. Make us still. Quiet down our hearts. Help us listen to the small whispering voice of yours.

We take a part of our time. We brought you a small part of our life. This worship is our life. Through this time of offering up our life to you, make this worship meaningful. Help us soaked in your lavishing love. Help us experience the immersive fragrance of your love. Your love is already poured out. Help us plunge ourselves into it.

You are the King of our lives. You are the Lord of every day. Be praised and be worshiped. In Jesus’ precious and powerful and beautiful name, we pray. Amen.

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

At the dinner party for Jesus in Bethany, Mary anointed Christ with expensive perfume, pouring out her love and devotion. Jesus accepted Mary’s gift gladly and graciously.

Trust that Christ will never reject our gifts, offered with love and devotion, so let us present our offering with glad and generous hearts. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Gracious Father God, even as Mary poured out her love for Jesus, he was preparing to pour out his life on the cross for her and for us all. We are grateful for such love, given and received, then given again. Accept the gifts we bring and anoint them with your Spirit so that they will flow into the world, refreshing others with your mercy and love. Show your Kingship to the whole world. Show your Lordship to all people. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey I Surrender All

<u>Vs. 1</u> All to Jesus I surrender All to Him I freely give I will ever love and trust Him In His presence daily live	<u>Chorus</u> I surrender all I surrender all All to Thee my blessed Saviour I surrender all
<u>Vs. 2</u> All to Jesus I surrender Make me Saviour wholly Thine Let me feel the Holy Spirit Truly know that Thou art mine	<u>Vs. 3</u> All to Jesus I surrender Lord I give myself to Thee Fill me with Thy love and power Let Thy blessing fall on me

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. Fifth week of Lent, we are approaching to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. In order to overcome the power of death, Jesus poured out his everything. Mary, in gratefulness and in love, poured out her love. Let us remember the love of Jesus poured out for us and let us pour out our love to Jesus.

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.