

THE COST OF THE GOSPEL

Worship on May 22, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)

(Welcoming Elder: Kevin Johnston)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 389 Breathe on me, breath of God
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Prayer for our children
- Praise song – BOP 500 Open my eyes, that I may see

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: John 14:15-29
- Sermon: Peace I leave with you
- 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:

. Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, May 22nd.

As we worship our faithful Father God, let his love fill our hearts.

. There will be coffee after worship. Please stay and connect.

. Rev. Soong has his office hours on Wednesday from 9am-12pm.

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

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

. Please help Ukraine with donation and prayer. Please pray for the people who are suffering from war.

. 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 open our hearts and minds,
and focus on our Lord and King.

Responsive Call to Worship

One: Let the peoples praise you, O God;

All: let all the peoples praise you!

One: Let the earth rejoice and be glad,

All: let the heavens declare your righteousness!

One: May all people see your glory, O God;

All: may your ways be known throughout the earth.

One: Let us worship the God who loves us;

All: We come to worship with open hearts, to raise our voices with thanks and praise.

Praise song – BOP 389 Breathe on me, breath of God

<u>Vs. 1</u> Breathe on me, breath of God; fill me with life anew, That I may love what thou dost love and do what thou wouldst do	<u>Vs. 2</u> Breathe on me, breath of God; until my heart is pure, Until with thee I will one will to do and to endure
<u>Vs. 3</u> Breathe on me, breath of God; Till I am wholly thine, Until this earthly part of me Glows with thy fire divine	<u>Vs. 4</u> Breathe on me, breath of God; So shall I never die, But live with thee the perfect life Of thine eternity

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God of promise and purpose, we greet you this day with thankful hearts. As flowers unfurl and buds open, the beauty of your world lifts our spirits in praise. As children grow and students prepare to graduate, their energy and enthusiasm encourage us toward your future. Your world is full of such variety and detail, we stand in awe of your creative imagination. Draw close to us in this hour of worship and show us the promise and purpose in our own lives. May we unfurl with your gift of new life, and move into the future, renewed by the energy of your Holy Spirit.

God of diversity and detail, the wonders of your creation amaze us. Yet we confess we often fail to honour its beauty and variety in the details of our lives. When voices differ in opinion, we listen to those we agree with. We fail to honour experience different than our own. We resist calls to honour the earth as if it were ours for the taking. Forgive our narrow perspectives. Open our eyes and our hearts to the pain and perspectives of others, and renew us all with your healing grace.

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, Jesus said, "My peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Let his forgiveness set you at peace with God and yourself, and make peace with one another. Peace of the Lord be with you. Let us take few moments to greet each other and share our peace.

Story for children and youth and prayer

Points form of the story:

Rock & Sand – you want to build a house.

Lining up cars on the floor or on the bed. Same.

Seen vs. unseen values.

Money vs. love of parents / love of God

Unseen solid foundation or shakable and even changing world values.

Prayer

God of love and grace, your love is faithful and your love is unchanging. Everything changes. Everything is shakable. But your love stands firm like a solid rock. Let our precious children and youth build their lives upon you. Fill their hearts with your love and guide their lives with your light. Thank you for loving them. Help them and walk with them. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: BOP 500 Open my eyes, that I may see

Vs. 1 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.	Vs. 2 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.
Vs. 3 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.	

Prayer for Illumination:

O God, your Word brings light to your people now, just as it did long ago.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit as we listen for your Word.

Open our minds and hearts to receive light to guide us and truth to change us

In the name of Christ, our Risen Lord, we pray. Amen.

Scripture: John 14:15-29

15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you. 18 “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20

On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?” 23 Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me. 25 “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. 28 You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. 29 And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe.

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

SERMON: Peace I leave with you

Today’s sermon title is “**Peace I leave with you.**”

Jesus continues his final words with his disciples. Last week, we talked about Jesus’ last word giving his disciples the new command, which is to love one another as Jesus loved them. This command of Jesus is also applied to us and we talked about the range and the depth of Jesus’ love for us. Jesus loved us when we were still the enemies of God and he restored our brokenness with God and made us clean before the eyes of God. This is the core message of the Gospel.

Can you accept yourself? Can you love yourself just as you are?
I hope you can. I hope you do love yourself.

But, this is the question. With what kind of love can you love yourself?

If you have high self-esteem and you love yourself with your own power and willingness, then what if you fail? What will happen? Your self-esteem will become low. Then, how do you love yourself with your own love?

Maybe, if you love your job, if this becomes the reason you love yourself? Then, what will happen to your love when you are laid off?

Maybe you love your family so much and you are from greatly respected parents. It is awesome. But, what if they fall? What if you found out their selfishness and weakness and sinful nature?

What I am trying to say here is this. If your love is rooted on something or someone shakable, your love, your whole life will be shaken. You know the story of building house on the solid rock or on a sand beach.

Your love for yourself should have some kind of reliable foundation. This cannot be our successful jobs, high self-esteem, or loving families. I am sorry to say that, but these are not trustworthy. These are not steadfast. These change when situations change. They are not eternal.

Jesus is getting ready to leave his disciples.

V15-18, **15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate [or Comforter], to be with you forever. 17 This is the**

Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you. 18 “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.

For the disciples, what was their foundation of their confidence? The presence of Jesus with them! Jesus was among them. They ate with Jesus. They traveled with Jesus. They slept with Jesus. Jesus, the great teacher, respected leader, miracle performer was among them. Imagine that you were one of the disciples who lived with Jesus. You could touch him, you could make eye-contact with him, you could talk to him. You could smell him. And he claimed to be the Son of God and did amazing miracles. Wow. This is my teacher, you know!

You know, when people go to mega church, they think the fanciness and convenience of the facility become their identity. When someone works at Holt Renfrew, the fanciest store with luxury brands, the luxury becomes their identity. Why do I say this?

Think about the hearts of the disciples. How would be their self-esteem?

“I live with Jesus.” “Jesus is my teacher!”

“Wow, I made a great choice to follow him!” “When we handed out the bread and fish, do you remember the people’s reactions?!” “When Jesus cast out demons, how wonderful feeling was that!”

They took Jesus’ ability, Jesus’ fame, and Jesus’ presence with them as their source of pride. It was source of their own love for themselves. It was the source of their confidence.

But, now Jesus is telling them “I will be gone.” “Where I am going, you cannot come.”

Separation! But, still, although I am leaving you, **I will not leave you orphaned. I am coming to you.** Panicked disciples. Without Jesus, they would not know what to do.

To them, who are panicked and terrified, Jesus comforted them.

19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

25 “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Peace. When Jesus was giving his peace to his disciples, what does this peace do?

“Do not let your hearts be troubled and not let them be afraid.”

“I know that you are afraid without me. But, don’t be.”

Here’s my peace. Although I am not going to be with you, I will be with you with my Holy Spirit. Jesus comforts his disciples. **“28 You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. 29 And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe.”**

Jesus mentioned that the Father is greater than himself. This is a faith confession of Jesus. Without faith in God, he cannot say this. Without faith in God, Jesus cannot obey God.

John 7:33, Jesus said, “I will be with you a little while longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. Jesus fully recognizes the authority of God. Also, listen to this. This is Paul’s prayer that people have the same mind as Jesus’.

Philippians 2, “5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, 8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name,

Jesus is showing his faith in God. Because of God’s perfect plan, because THIS God had sent Him, because Jesus trust His God the Father, He recognize God’s authority. Jesus humble himself before God. He obey God to the death of the cross.

With the faith in this Faithful God, Jesus is giving us peace. Jesus did not neglect our weak faith. He himself showed us first how he trusted God. Jesus was God when he was in human body. But, he never considered himself equal to God. He listened to God the Father all the time in prayer. Jesus faced the death. He could have avoided it, but he did not run away. He confronted his cross in the obedience to God.

This is the PEACE Jesus is giving us along with the promise of sending us the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit, may the same peace be in our hearts all the time.

This is the word of the Lord for us today. Let us pray.

The Prayer for the People of God

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

Loving Father God, what a great promise. What a wonder comfort you are giving us. This peace is not earned easily. This peace was bought with your precious blood. With your life, you purchased this peace and gave it to us. What an amazing love it is. Thank you so much. Gracious Father God, open our hearts and help us have you. You are pounding our hearts to open, but there are too many hindrances in our lives. Open our eyes and ears, so we may hear your love and peace for us.

Lord, have mercy on us. We hear from news from East Buffalo. Hate crime. Many deaths. Fear. Wonder. Sadness. There was a shooting in a supermarket at the centre of the community life. Beautiful God, restoring God, let your name be filled their hearts. Let your peace be among them. Send your hands and feet and let your love be displayed as they rebuild their community in your presence, in your help, and in your peace.

We pray for our church family. There are many who are traveling a long distance. Protect them safely as they spent a lot time outside, on the road, in the nature, and anywhere. Bless their meeting with their family and friends. Fill the meetings with your peace and love, so they may come close to you. Let them refresh their hearts and worship you with truthful hearts.

We also pray for the people who are suffering with their physical sicknesses. Loving Father God, help them. Grant them peace in their hearts. Place your hands upon them

and heal them. Help them live in your peace and love. Provide them best medical assistance.

Also, there are people who are struggling with relationship problems. We are weak, we have to admit. We have no ability to make peace with others. We are selfish. We are sinful. Merciful God, be with us. Heal our hurts. Help us overcome our past experiences. So, our eyes are fixed on you and walk toward you. As we worship you and walk the faithful together, with your Holy Spirit, fill our hearts and help us exercise your love to others. So we can love one another. We cannot, but you can.

We praise and worship you. You alone are our God. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. God has created a world of great diversity, full of wonder and potential. Let us honour God's gifts to us in Christ and in each other as we present our offering in support of God's purposes in the world. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Generous God, we thank you so much for your gift of new life in Christ Jesus. Receive our gifts this day, and bless each gift and each giver. Use each one to witness to your purposes through our congregation and throughout the world you love, in Jesus' 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 refuge never failing; Our helper sure amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing: For still our ancient foe yet seek to work us woe; with craft and power great and, armed with cruel hate, on earth has not an equal.	<u>Vs. 2</u> Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing; Were not a Saviour on our side, the One of God's own choosing: Who is this Saviour, who? Christ Jesus, living, true, Lord Sabaoth, by name, from age to age the same, already wins the battle.
<u>Vs. 3</u> And though this world, with evil filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God has willed the truth to triumph through us. The powers of death and hell our God will surely quell. Their rage we can endure, for look! Their doom is sure: one little world will fell them.	<u>Vs. 4</u> That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abiding, Ensures that all God's gifts are ours, through Christ in us residing, whose summons rings above all goods, all earthly love. Earth's powers waste away; God's word endures always, whose reign will last forever.

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. Do you peace of Jesus in your heart? Long for it. It is already given for us. Trust the promise of Jesus. Let us rely upon Jesus, not us. Jesus' promise is faithful, but not us, right? Let us give up the trust of our own selves, but start trusting God. **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.