

Worship on May 29, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)
(Welcoming Elder: Anne Neuman)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 267 Rejoice, the Lord is King
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Prayer for our children
- Praise song – All in all

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23
- Sermon: The Spirit of wisdom and revelation
- The Prayer for the People of God

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 376 Shine Jesus shine

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

- . Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, May 29th. God is caring for us. May God's loving care and grace be experienced as we worship him today.
- . There is the Communion at the Lord's Table next week.
- . General Assembly starts Next Sunday, June 5. Please for the wisdom of God and the love of God be upon the gathering.
- . There will be Fellowship time in the Church Hall 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.
- . Martha's table is open for in-person luncheons.
- . 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 every creature in heaven and on earth shout to God and sing with joy!

All: Blessing and honour, glory and power be to our God for ever and ever!

One: Let us raise our prayers and praises to God in worship this day!

All: Blessing and honour, glory and power be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.

Praise song – BOP 267 Rejoice, the Lord is King

<u>Vs. 1</u> Rejoice, the Lord is King; your sovereign Lord adore; give thanks O mortals, Sing and triumph evermore. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice; Rejoice, again I say, rejoice	<u>Vs. 2</u> For Christ the Saviour reigns, The God of truth and love; When Jesus purged our stains, He took his seat above. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice; Rejoice, again I say, rejoice
<u>Vs. 3</u> His reign can never fail; He rules o'er earth and heaven: The keys of death and hell are to our Saviour given. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice; Rejoice, again I say, rejoice	<u>Vs. 4</u> He sits at God's right hand Till all his foes submit And bow to his command and fall beneath his feet Lift up your heart; lift up your voice; Rejoice, again I say, rejoice
<u>Vs. 5</u> Rejoice in glorious hope, For Christ the judge shall come And take the faithful up to their eternal home Lift up your heart; lift up your voice; Rejoice, again I say, rejoice	

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God of glory and majesty, God of mystery and mercy, in Christ Jesus, you came to live among us, sharing in our joys and sorrows. After he suffered and died for our sake, you raised him and took him up in glory so that he might fulfill all things.

As our ascended Lord, he gives hope to your people in all places, in every generation and every situation. So we claim that hope this day, for ourselves and for the world you love, offering you our praise and worship in the name of Jesus Christ, who now lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. We praise and worship you with all our hearts!

You desire us to share in the unity and be one as you are Three in One.

We confess that such unity often frustrates us. We dwell on our differences and find reasons to criticize each other. The love you called us to offer one another disappears when we disagree. Forgive us for making our opinions and preferences into dividing lines within the body of your Church. Call us again to honour the unity and love you cherish for your followers so we may witness to unity and love in this divided world.

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, 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. Believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and we are given a ministry of reconciliation for his sake. What a great blessing it is!
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

Loving Father God, thank you for this time of prayer for our precious children and youth.
Gracious God, thank you for keeping them safely all the time. Thank you for giving them health.
Thank you for all we have so we can provide what they need. Please continue to keep them safe and well. Fill their hearts with your love and grace. Please turn their hearts to you so their lives are in you. Help them overcome hatred in this world and spread your love in their culture and generation. God, be with them. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: All in all

You are my strength when I am weak	Taking my sin my cross my shame
You are the treasure that I seek	Rising again I bless Your name
You are my all in all	You are my all in all
Seeking You as a precious jewel	When I fall down You pick me up
Lord to give up I'd be a fool	When I am dry You fill my cup
You are my all in all	You are my all in all
Jesus Lamb of God	Jesus Lamb of God
Worthy is Your name	Worthy is Your name
Jesus Lamb of God	Jesus Lamb of God
Worthy is Your name	Worthy is Your name

Prayer for Illumination:

O God, you are the beginning and the end of all things, the First and the Last.

Send your Holy Spirit to open our minds and hearts to your truth, so that we may find new beginnings in Your Word, and make living your Word our purpose and end. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

SERMON: The Spirit of wisdom and revelation

Today’s passage is Paul’s prayer for the believers in Ephesus. Paul, as a preacher, a pastor, a missionary, a church planter, raised God’s people with the gospel and prayer. He preached the right gospel and he prayed for God’s people.

As we worship God, let us have the prayerful hearts that the right gospel is to preached and prayers for each other be overflowing within our church. And please remember me in your prayers.

Today’s sermon title is **“The Spirit of wisdom and revelation.”**

Paul’s prayer begins in **v17 the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him**

AS YOU COME TO KNOW HIM – this implies growth. Are we growing in the knowledge of God? Are we coming close to him as we walk the faith journey? Are we building the relationship with God as we come to church and worship God every Sunday?

We need to open our hearts and minds and we need to have the desire to receive God.

Pascal said this.

“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ.”

Aren’t we experiencing this? There is an empty space in our hearts. When I feel like I am distant from God, I try various different things to satisfy my heart. But, nothing satisfies my heart.

Don’t you know the feeling? We had it enough. But, this is our weakness. We repeat.

We try to run away from God and seek our own desires again and again. And we fall, we fail.

We become miserable. Then we come back to God.

God, with unending love, waits for us with his arms open wide.

Also, David’s confession. “You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.” Psalm 63:1

Let us long for the Holy Spirit. He will give us wisdom and he will reveal the heart of God.

When the Spirit comes to us with wisdom and revelation, this happens. **V17 the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened,**

When the Holy Spirit gives us wisdom and revelation, we open our eyes. Our hearts are enlightened. This is the nature of conversion. Do you remember Paul? When Paul encountered Jesus in light, his eyes were covered with scales.

Paul became blind and stayed in a house. Acts 9:17-19, **17 So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."** **18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.** Before we encounter the Holy Spirit, our eyes are blinded. Our eyes are blocked. Our eyes are closed. We cannot see. All we could do is to stay in darkness. No energy.

When the Holy Spirit came to Paul, not only he opened his eyes, but also he regained energy. Conversion. His life was changed.

Let us continue: **18, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you,**

When we open our eyes, we realize the hope that God is giving us.

This hope is : **what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.**

This hope is rooted in **the immeasurable greatness of his power for us.**

The immeasurable greatness of God's power is with us.

Our church is small. There are not many people who can be involved in various areas. That is the fact. Difficult situation. Burdensome. Maybe some pressure.

Then, is God not glorified in our worship? Is God disappointed here because there are smaller number of people than before?

The Head of Church is Jesus Christ. I have experienced splitting of churches. Small churches. Aching churches. Emptiness of church. We have to face the reality. It happens. God's heart is broken for his churches.

BUT, my question is this. If the church becomes smaller and weaker, is God's power decrease? If God's church is aching, is God's power diminished? Does God experience limitation because of our weaknesses? The answer is clearly NO.

Sometimes a **cloud covers the sun**. No sunlight. Darkness. No one believes that the sun lost its light. Many times, church experiences hardships. God seems to be hiding. But, we know for sure that God is still working for us. Paul prays for God's people to know this.

The hope we have is rooted **in the immeasurable greatness of God's power for us.**

The immeasurable greatness of God's power is with us.

Is God working in your life? Are you experiencing God's guidance and help?

Last Sunday, due to the thunderstorm, there was no power in church. One door was blocked by the broken tree branches. And there was no sun. We didn't get enough light. So, we gathered by the Mosley St. entrance to get some light. Small number of people. Inconvenience. No piano. We only sang one hymn with our voices only. We were lack of so many things.

Was God at work among us? Is God still guiding our church?

The answer is YES. God's presence was there. God's love poured out upon us.

In the personal relationship with us, God was with us.

Let us continue. **V20, God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.**

This is the description of God's power. God works through Christ Jesus in his power.

22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

And Christ is lifted. Jesus is glorified over all the church. Jesus is the Head of all church. We are the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. He is the Head and we are attached to Him.

This last sentence of the prayer is amazing. This is the conclusion.

The fullness of Jesus Christ fills all in all.

Colossians 1, 17 He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The fullness of God is poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

And this is given to us in the wisdom and the revelation of the Holy Spirit.

God is filling us through Jesus Christ. God is filling all of his creation through Jesus Christ.

Long for the Holy Spirit. This is the promise of God to send us the Holy Spirit. With the light of the Holy Spirit, we will be in the wisdom and the revelation of Jesus Christ, who fills all in all. Receive the Holy Spirit. Invite the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that our eyes are open to the immeasurable greatness of God's power. Through this power, Jesus will fill each heart of ours. This is the foundation of our hope and our life.

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

The Prayer for the People of God

God of immeasurable greatness of power, we thank you for your invitation. Thank you for calling us to become your body. Thank you for becoming our Head.

We are amazed because of your fulfilling grace and love for us. Whether we realize or not, you are filling our hearts with your immeasurable greatness. Like you opened Paul's eyes, open our eyes also so we are able to see you working in us.

Send us your Holy Spirit, so we are filled with Christ. Fill our hearts with you.

This time, we are praying for our church and for the world. As we pray, help us understand your heart. Help us know your desire for us and give us courage to walk with you and follow your steps.

We are heartbroken thinking of Robb Elementary school shooting. Many children died. Many children are traumatized. The whole world is saddened because of the loss of young lives. Father God, we are just speechless. What kind prayer or encouragement could help the parents who lost their children. What in the whole world can fill their hearts. Touch their hearts. Hold their hands. Embrace them. Invite them to you

presence. Cry with them. Sit quietly with them and fill their hearts with you, Lord. You are the only hope. When we hit the lowest part of our life, you are the only source of power to stand up again. Precious Father God, embrace the community of Uvalde, Buffalo, and all the places with fear and danger, and Ukraine and Russian, and the whole world and let us be still in your presence.

Let us take 30 second in silence. Let us pray for the world and for the people whom we know they need our prayers.

Gracious Father God, we are praying for all the people who need to be filled with you. There are people with illnesses, hardships, struggles, challenges, and many more personal difficulties, also the people who are experiencing damages and hurts from last week's thunderstorm. You are the God who cares. You are loving. You are powerful. Please help us see you in our situations.

What would you like us to learn? How would you show us your love and goodness? We pray for hearts to be encouraged by your presence. Holy Spirit, open our eyes and help us see you working in every corner of our lives. Help us see Christ filling the whole creation with himself. Jesus Christ, you are all in all.

Let your light shine upon us and let us overcome all the hindrances with your immeasurable greatness of your power with us.

We want to glorify you and satisfy our emptiness with you alone. We praise and worship you. You alone are our God. In Jesus' precious, and powerful, and beautiful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. Though the Easter season draws to a close today, we continue to enjoy the blessings God pours out for us in Christ and in creation. Let us give thanks to God for these blessings as we present our offering in Jesus' holy and beautiful and powerful name. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Eternal God, we praise you that Christ has ascended to rule in love at your right hand, while the Holy Spirit continues the work of salvation throughout your creation. We offer our gifts and our lives in gratitude for that work, and dedicate them to your purposes in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Song for the Journey BOP 376 Shine Jesus shine

<u>Vs. 1</u> Lord, the light of your love is shining In the midst of the darkness, shining Jesus, light of the World, shine upon us Set us free by the truth you now bring us Shine on me Shine on me	<u>Vs. 2</u> Lord, I come to your awesome presence From the shadows into your radiance By your blood I may enter your brightness Search me try me Consume all my darkness Shine on me Shine on me
<u>Vs. 3</u> As we gaze on your kingly brightness So our faces display your likeness Ever changing from glory to glory Mirrored here may our lives tell your story Shine on me Shine on me	<u>Chorus</u> Shine Jesus shine Fill this land with the Father's glory Blaze, Spirit blaze, Set out hearts on fire Flow, river, flow Flood the nations with grace and mercy Send forth your word, Lord And let there be light

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. Let us shine the light of Jesus! Let us fill the earth with the Father's glory. The fullness of Jesus Christ fills all in all. This is our hope and our confidence. And this is the promise of God. Let us live in the promise of God. Let us live with God. May God's loving presence be with us all.

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.