

Worship on June 19, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)
(Welcoming Elder: Kevin Johnston)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 328 This is my Father's world
- Prayer for worship and Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Time for our children and youth
- Praise song – BOP 300 Father, we love you

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: 1 King 19:1-18
- Sermon: I will give you strength
- The Prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 592 I, the Lord of sea and sky

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

. Happy Father's Day! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, June 19th. As we worship our Father God, may your strength and energy renewed and your joy restored.

. The Session meeting is on June 22, at 7pm. Please remember and pray for the elders and minister.

. 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. Also, let us continue to pray for the people in need of our prayers in our congregation.

. 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: We come to worship God,

All: For God is just and compassionate. God is love.

One: Where will we find God?

All: God is among the hungry and thirsty, in the face of a stranger, reaching out to us.

One: Let us seek God so that we can serve God.

All: Let us worship God and seek God's healing, reconciling grace.

Praise song – BOP 328 This is my Father's world

<u>Vs. 1</u> This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought; of rocks and trees, of skies and seas God's hands the wonders wrought.	<u>Vs. 2</u> This is my Maker's world; the birds their carols raise; the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise. This is my Maker's world; God shines in all that's fair; in the rustling grass, God's footsteps pass; God speaks to me everywhere.
<u>Vs. 3</u> This is my Saviour's world; oh let me not forget that thought the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet. This is my Saviour's world; the battle is not done; Jesus, who died, shall be satisfied earth and heaven be one.	

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Creator God, You have made a world of such amazing diversity – with unique living things we cannot number, in an interdependent pattern on which all life depends. We praise you for such wonder. You have created such amazing diversity in humankind – through culture and language, custom and community, expressed in creativity and compassion over and over again.

We praise you for such wonder. In Jesus Christ, you show us how much you love your creation and how we can live by your love.

By the power of your Spirit, give us new eyes to behold the wonders you have made and teach us how to share in the praise your creation offers you day by day.

Creator God, The diversity in your creation amazes us but we confess we prefer what seems familiar. We'd like everyone to speak our language. We wish others held our values and shared our customs. We don't understand discrimination that hurts others. We don't recognize how our own preferences affect other people and the earth itself in harmful ways. Forgive our familiar assumptions, and open our minds and hearts to the stories of others and the cries of suffering throughout the earth.

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, The prophet Micah declared that God requires only three things of us: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

To all who truly repent, who turn away from arrogance, and seek reconciliation with God and neighbour in kindness and humility, God offers forgiveness and peace. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

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

Jacob & Esau (picture)

Stew (immediate need right in front of eye) vs. birthright (God's special blessing – long term blessings and benefits from God)

Holy Spirit – give them wisdom to see further, so you capture their hearts and use them.

Prayer

God of love and grace, thank you for this time of prayer for our precious children and youth. As they grow up in you and form their faith, help them to have you in the centre of their hearts. Let God be their guideline and standard. Let them choose with your wisdom, with your peace, and with your guidance. Our prayer for them is this. Let them have you. These worldly treasures are great, but they don't last eternity. We want to give them the true treasure. Teach them your word and let them enjoy in your presence and let them glorify you through their lives. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: BOP 300 Father, we love you

<u>Vs. 1</u> Father, we love you, we worship, we adore you, glorify your name in all the earth, glorify your name, glorify your name, glorify your name in all the earth.	<u>Vs. 2</u> Jesus, we love you, we worship, we adore you, glorify your name in all the earth, glorify your name, glorify your name, glorify your name in all the earth.
<u>Vs. 3</u> Spirit, we love you, we worship, we adore you, glorify your name in all the earth, glorify your name, glorify your name, glorify your name in all the earth.	

Prayer for Illumination:

God of wisdom and hope, your Word has offered guidance and healing throughout many generations. Send us your Spirit now. As we listen to the stories of your people, so we may find wisdom and hope, guidance and healing through your Living Word, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Scripture: 1 King 19:1-18

1 Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." 3 Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. 4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down

under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." 5 Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." 6 He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. 7 The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you." 8 He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. 9 At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 10 He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." 11 He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 14 He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." 15 Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. 16 Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. 17 Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. 18 Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

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

SERMON: I will give you strength

Today's sermon title is **"I will give you strength."**

Just before today's scripture, Elijah brought 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah. They are the gods of prosperity. Elijah asked them to prepare two identical altars. One for our God, and the other for Baal and Asherah. They dug a big trench around the altar and pour out a lot of water. They prepared the sacrifice and prayed to their gods. The God who answers the prayer is the true God, they agreed.

So, Elijah asked them to pray first. They prayed all day long. People waited, waited, and yawned. Around the evening time, after a long wait, Elijah stood up. He prayed to God.

1 King 18, 37 Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God and that you have turned their hearts back." 38 Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust and even licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord indeed is God; the Lord indeed is God."

Great victory. Elijah said, **"Seize the prophets of Baal; do not let one of them escape." Then they seized them, and Elijah brought them down to the Wadi Kishon and killed them there."**

Complete victory. Complete wipe out of evil from God's people.

What would you do if you were Elijah on the next day of the great victory?

Elijah was told that Jezebel, who was the queen of the country, was planning to kill him. He was too scared and ran away. In a remote place, he prayed to God, **V4 “It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.”**

Wait a moment, is this the same guy? Who boldly stood up in front of 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah and testified the name of the Lord? Who fearlessly proclaimed the name of God?

This is not the first time that his life was in danger. Many times, he experienced hardships, dangers, and threats. But why now? Elijah is completely broken down.

Can you relate yourself with Elijah? Have you experienced complete collapse? Failure? Bankruptcy? Rejection? Hurt?

What did you do to overcome your difficulties? Or have you even overcome your difficulties? Have you moved on? Or is it still in your heart as a heartbreaking wound?

Today's story gives us a great example of how God strengthens God's own people. God works in many different ways according to our needs. So, you will experience different acts of God, but I wanted to introduce and remind ourselves how God strengthens us when we hit the lowest point of our lives.

After the prayer or just a simple complaint, this is what Elijah did. **V5, Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep.**

Have you spent a sleepless night before God?

It was on my 18th birthday. I asked my mom if I could pray all night at church all by myself. I wanted to start my adulthood by giving my first day to God. So, my mom and I went to the church custodian. He said yes, but said one more thing. At church, there are a lot of spirits other than the Holy Spirit. What?!? Basically, he said, “be aware of the evil spirits.”

You know, this kind of strong image does not leave you especially, when you are alone.

I tried to pray to God, but I was not able to close my eyes. It was Friday night and usually Korean churches have Saturday early morning prayer. So, I watched the clock all night waiting for someone to come and save me. I was so afraid and was not able to pray, but all I could do was to come to the pulpit and sit down there and wait for the morning.

I don't know when I fell asleep, when I woke up, there were some people coming in for morning prayer.

It is not the same as Elijah's experience, but I know a little bit of how hopeless and weak Elijah would feel and how scary he was. Too much stress, too much thoughts and emotions are going on in the heart, suddenly, not knowing, Elijah fell asleep.

V5 continues, **“Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, Get up and eat.”**

How long would this **“Suddenly”** be? God knew that Elijah was tired and needed sleep. You know the feeling that if you are too tired, when you slept for few hours, but you wake with a shock and you forget what day it is and what time it is and where you are. I sometimes wake up thinking that it was Sunday morning. This Suddenly could be how Elijah would feel. He had a

deep sleep. Waking up with a shock, what does he find? Food. What is he told to do? **Get up and eat.** He ate and drank and then slept again.

Matthew 11:28-30, 28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

MGS, 28-30 “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

God is powerful God. He empowers his people and uses us for his purposes. Yet, even if we didn’t do what God wants us to do, God’s work still be accomplished. God’s glory still be amazing. God’s power is not affected at all. Our God is unchanging and almighty. This our God wants one thing from us. It is True rest. Walking with God and working with him. Learn how he works. Find out our true selves and find the right place God wants us to be. When too tired, when experiencing breakdown, rest, eat, sleep, and do nothing before God.

Do you need a rest? Are you too tired? Are you heavy burdened? Are you burned out?

Our life is too important and precious, but it is not about us, it is about our Creator, God. Listen to this, Colossians 1:18, **“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.”**

Our head is Jesus. We are hands and feet of Jesus. We are the body, not head. We are not the Lord of our lives. We do not know how to rest. We do not know what to do when we are hopeless. We just fall asleep and eat.

The Lord’s strengthening is from here. **V7, “Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you.”** God gives us reason to get up. God strengthens us first before we do anything. If there is no reason, we don’t have to get up in the morning and carry out our daily lives. If there is no reason to work, why would you keep working? We need purpose, we need goal. God told Elijah to go somewhere, and he went. But, God did not give detailed explanation. So, with the power of God, Elijah went to the place where God told him to go and hid again. He found a cave. He was still in fear after regaining energy from God.

To that scared Elijah, God showed himself. God appeared to him in whisper. And God asked him what he was doing. Elijah answered with complaints. “I was too enthusiastic for you.” “I worked too hard for you.” “I gave my everything for you.” “But, now what? I am the only one left. I am the only prophet of yours, now? And I am chased for my life? Is this all you can do to me?”

To Elijah, God said to anoint kings and anoint Elisha for his place. Then finally, God told Elijah that there were 7000 prophets of God who never bowed to other gods.

Encouragement. Relief. God prepares for his kingdom. Elijah’s life was recovered by giving the headship to God. When he realized that he was not the head, but God, he regained strength to carry out God’s purpose for his life.

So, Elijah was afraid of the queen Jezebel. But, later, Elijah pronounced God's verdict on the king Ahab and the queen Jezebel. They would die miserably. God will bring disaster on Ahab's family and dogs shall eat Jezebel and the people belong to them.

Elijah fearlessly proclaimed God's sentence to Ahab and Jezebel, just like he did in front of 850 prophets of false gods. Another victory of Elijah with the power of God

Come to God and lay down your tiredness and broken heart before God. God will strengthen you in his own time in his own ways.

What we need is to bring our everything before God and wait on the Lord in hope.

May God be with you and give you strength to hang in there in his presence. Fill your hearts with his hope.

This is the word of the Lord for us today.

Prayer for the people of God

God who strengthened Elijah, we are coming to you trusting your faithfulness. You are God of mercy and grace and hope. You listen to the smallest whisper of pain and agony. You know our sighs and our sufferings. And you call us to come to you. Thank you for calling us and thank you for waiting for us with generosity and patience. When we are hopeless, you are our hope. When we are in darkness, you are our light. When we are at the lowest point of our lives, you are the rock bottom we can stand on. Father God, give us faith. Help our weak faith. Help us hang in there in your presence.

At this time Lord, we are coming to your presence laying down our hearts, our emotions, our desires, our worries, our tiredness, and our happiness. Embrace us and carry us in your almighty arms.

This world is filled with more hatred, more anger, more violence, more fear, more sadness, and we become more and more selfish. More technologies assure us the means of connectedness. They say that we can connect with all kinds of methods. But, we feel more disconnected as our technologies and culture develop. We think we are going upward and forward, but are we? With our cellphones, we experience unseen prison cell when we give too much focus. We connect with others, but we lose the people around us. O Lord, give us wisdom and courage, so we use our technologies and what we have, not overwhelmed by what we have and what we develop. Remind us your biggest commandment. Love God and love people. Help us live our lives up to our true calling. Fill the whole earth with your love and glory. Strengthen us and use us.

We pray for our people who need our prayers. There are people who are experiencing physical difficulties. Disease cannot stop us. Surely it's challenging, but you are still the same. Your love still remains the same. Your arms are still open for us to hug us and embrace us. There are fear, mood swings, ups and downs, and worry. Give them faith and let them proclaim to their challenges the name of our Father God. Fill their hearts with your love and let them overcome their sickness in you and heal their bodies and heal their hearts. Restore the joy and love in you. We also pray for all other concerns and difficulties. We experience difficulties both because of our own weaknesses and because of other people's weaknesses. In challenges in our lives, protect us and guide our steps.

Gracious God, we pray that let your glory fall upon us and let your glory in power go forth from us to the whole nations. Let your fragrance rest in us. We are seeking your face. We are longing for your glory to be seen through our lives. Strengthen us. Make us true and honest before you. Help us live with our own selves for your glory. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. God's Spirit equips Jesus' followers to bring healing and hope to the world God loves.
The gifts we offer God are tangible signs of that healing and hope at work in us and through us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Loving God, accept the gifts we offer you, today and every day. Put our time, our talents and our treasure to good use wherever they are needed, for the sake of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Song for the Journey BOP 592 I, the Lord of sea and sky

Vs. 1 I, the Lord, of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?	<u>Chorus</u> Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night; I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.
Vs. 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain I have wept for love of them; they turn away I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?	Vs.3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame I will set a feast for them; my hand will save Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. God strengthens us before sending us. God gives us power before giving us tasks. Trust our faithful God and live in his presence and live for his glory.

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.