

Worship on June 26, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)
(Welcoming Elder: Kevin Johnston)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 490 God of grace and God of glory
- Prayer for worship and Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Time for our children and youth
- Praise song – BOP 712 Arise your light has come

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Galatians 5:1, 13-26
- Sermon: For freedom Christ set us free
- The Prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 436 God, we praise you for the morning

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

. Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, June 26th. Christ set us free and filled our hearts with his amazing love. Let the love of God be experienced as we worship him at this time.

. There will be Fellowship time in the Church Hall after Worship. Please stay and connect.

. The Rev. Soong will take next week off. Student minister Paul Ku will come and lead the worship and the Rev. Paul Kang will be the emergent pastoral care. (416-875-0424)

. 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: It is good to give thanks to the Lord;

All: Let us sing praises to God's holy name!

One: We will declare God's steadfast love in the morning,

All: And God's faithfulness night after night.

One: Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord!

All: For God is good and we know God's blessings.

One: Let us worship God with grateful hearts;

All: We will give God thanks in our prayers and praise.

Praise song – BOP 490 God of grace and God of glory

<u>Vs. 1</u> God of glory and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power; crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, For the facing of this hour, (x 2)	<u>Vs. 2</u> Lo! The hosts of evil round us, scorn thy Christ, assail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us; free our hearts to love and praise Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, For the living of these days, (x 2)
<u>Vs. 3</u> Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, Lest we miss they kingdom's goal. (x 2)	<u>Vs. 4</u> Set out feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be armoured with all Christ-like graces, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, That we fail not them nor thee (x 2)
<u>Vs. 5</u> Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, Serving thee whom we adore (x 2)	

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Faithful and fruitful God, you created our minds to grow in wisdom.

You created our hearts to expand with love. You created our voices to sing your praises forever.

We bring you our worship with joyful praise, turning to Jesus for grace and guidance.

Fill us to overflowing with your Holy Spirit so that the fruit of the Spirit will bound in our lives.

May we worship you in spirit and in truth, and serve you in the example of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Faithful and fruitful God, you call us to follow you, whatever the circumstance, yet we confess we prefer to remain where we are. You offer us new beginnings, yet we continue to make the same choices, guided by our own desires. We make excuses for avoiding your challenge to change.

Forgive us, O God. Cleanse us with your mercy, and energize us to serve you even when the challenge seems great.

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, In Christ, we are made a new creation; the old life is gone and the new life has come! Know that God loves you and forgives you. Do not be afraid to make a new start! Peace, wisdom, and courage of the Lord our God be with you.

Peace of the Lord be with you. Let us take few moments to greet each other and share our peace.

Prayer for children and youth and prayer

Loving God, we thank you for this time of prayer for our children and youth. There have been a lot of challenges and changes in their school years. Thank you for leading them and helping them. Lord God, please continue to pour out your wisdom upon them in their learning and forming their identity. We pray that you capture their hearts and be in the centre of their hearts. Help them have safe and restful summer break. Bless their hearts and let them give you all the glory and praise through their lives. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: BOP 712 Arise, your light is come

<u>Vs. 1</u> Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of your God which shines on your today	<u>Vs. 2</u> Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor
<u>Vs. 3</u> Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born, bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.	<u>Vs. 4</u> Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong

Prayer for Illumination:

God of wisdom, by your Spirit, open our minds to your truth, open our hearts to your gospel, and open our hands so that we can do your will, in the name of Jesus, your Living Word. Amen.

Scripture: Galatians 5:1, 13-26

1 For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ... 13 For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. 14 For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. 16 Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. 24 And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the

Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another. **“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”**

SERMON: For freedom Christ has set us free

Today's sermon title is **“For freedom Christ has set us free.”**

Freedom. What is freedom in your own definition?

Freedom is the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance.

When we picture freedom, there is no entanglement, there is no jobs to be done, there is no one to take care of, there is no worry.

Today's sermon title came from **V1, For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.**

Apostle Paul, when speaking about freedom, he said something not to do.

‘Come on.. it's freedom. Don't tell me what to do or what not to do! Just leave me alone.’

This might be our response.

But, true freedom is not what we normally picture of the freedom we dream.

Imagine building a house. We build it for our home, where we can take a rest and share love with our loved ones. But, when we focus on maintenance of the house as a building, we might lose the true meaning of home.

Sometimes, we lose the main purpose of our life when focusing on maintenance of our goals.

Sometimes, we are entangled by the things we have to take care in order for reaching to freedom and pursuing of the true meaning of our life.

Freedom is not separation from relationships; it is a feature of relationships that become especially apparent as a result of our relationships with Jesus Christ. Freedom is not the absence of entanglements; entanglements are the means by which freedom becomes meaningful.

Then, what kind of relationships follow from Christian freedom?

In his answer, Paul contrasts desires of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit.

No one can be unentangled from these desires. What matters is how we are building our relationships with our desires.

Fleshly desires VS. the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

First, we need to be careful not to simply make black-and-white judgment when comparing these two different desires. This is not just a simple contrast. The works of the flesh include both material desires and spiritual desires at the same time. **V19 Sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery and drunkenness** are seeking bodily pleasure alone and **V20 idolatry and sorcery** are seeking our spiritual comfort and pleasure. **And V20 enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, and envy.** These are our natural tendencies. So, when Paul refers fleshly desires, he has these complicated desires of ours. Also, we have desires from the Holy Spirit too. **V22, Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness,**

gentleness, and self-control. We have the desires for the fruit of the Spirit too. We cannot be free from our various desires. By this contrast, Paul wants us to face our honest selves. We all have these desires.

Paul's second point is about the consequence of the two different desires. And Paul teaches which direction Christians should take. The disordered desires, the fleshly desires, enslave us to our passions and selfishness and destroy our community. For Paul, the appropriate response to disordered desire is neither the rejection of desire nor surrender to it. Instead, it is to desire properly, which is made possible by the work of the Holy Spirit, also we have these desires in our hearts. **Colossians 3, "So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory."**

Paul is addressing to those who accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord. If you want to be free, if you are raised with Christ, if you have eternal life in you, then you have died with Christ and this glory of God hidden in Christ is with your life. This current life does not seem to be that great, but it is to come.

Paul continues, **"v5, Put to death, therefore, whatever in you in earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. 7 These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life."** We all experienced this. We are raised with Christ, but we still have our sinful nature. Therefore, by the help of God, we are to seek the things above. The Holy Spirit is changing our nature. We are to clothe ourselves with Christ.

To experience freedom, **8 But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another,**

Now, Paul is shifting his focus from individual to community. He is talking about the relationship between people. **9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices 10 and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. 11 In that renewal** [when our natures are changed by the help of the Holy Spirit,] **there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian** [si·thee·uhn], **enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!**

Paul calls us as he continues. Listen to what he refers us. **"12 Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, [that's who we are.] as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience."** These are the characteristics of Jesus Christ. Seek the things above. Seek the characteristics of Jesus Christ. Clothe yourself with Christ.

Paul's final and third point today is this. In this way, the benefit of being free increases from individual to community. We as individuals becoming free and having the Christlikeness is great. But, this is not the end, but it's only the beginning. Because the benefit of the Holy Spirit is at work in individuals, us, church, the freedom is spreading in our community, beginning from each one of us.

In this way, we are going back to Jesus' greatest commandment. **"Love God and love people."** **Matthew 22:36-40 36 "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" 37 He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the greatest and first commandment.** [This is the beginning of our relationship with God. If we want to hug and love others, we need to stand firm.

Do you remember how cross looks? This vertical line should be standing firm in order to have the horizontal line.] **39 And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'** [Simple. Love others with the love you have received from God as the chosen ones, holy and beloved] **40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.** Everything laws and rules and regulations we need to observe are from these two commandments. Love God and love people. **St. Augustine said this, "Love God and do whatever you please."**

LOVE GOD and BE FREE. LOVE GOD and all things we need will follow. Clothing ourselves with Christ will follow. Loving neighbours will follow. Building healthy and loving community will follow.

For freedom Christ has set us free. Christ made us free from our flesh. We are made free from all bondage our life. We are not slave to any of our fleshly desires any more. Before we were slaves of every single desire of ours. But, now we are free and we are in the process of becoming free by the love of God.

So, with the love of God, be free. Christ has set you free. With the freedom, love God, love yourself, and love others.

This is the word of the Lord for us today.

Prayer for the people of God

Gracious and loving Father God, thank you so much for your love. You sent your one and only Son for us. You sent your most precious Treasure for us. You gave up your life to free us, to give us what we have now. We praise and worship you with all our hearts with the freedom you have given us. We still love fleshly desires. We still want to go back to our old selves. We want to take off Christ. You, God, destroyed our fleshly desires. You crushed all our earthly desires. You conquered all the evil desires in us. Whenever we are falling away from you, help us. Hold us. Remind us the truth we have. By your love, we are set free.

This time Lord, we pray for your guidance in our everyday life. We face challenges every day. Relationship issues, health problems, financial struggles, in family, in work places, in church, even when driving. Lord, hold our hearts and give us peace. Speak to us your love again and again, so we are in your presence all the time. So, in challenges, we no longer response with our old fleshly desires, but overcome our challenges with the freedom and love that we have received from you.

Help those who are having difficulties with their situations. And let your love be overflowing in the heart of each individual member, so our church be overwhelmed by your love and by your peace. We are dreaming the community with love and peace and grace and mercy in each relationship we are building here so we can carry your peace and freedom to everywhere we go.

Almighty God, we are your people. Lead us and display your lordship in us. Be glorified. Use us. We love you and we worship you with all that we are. You are our precious. In Jesus' precious and powerful and beautiful name, we pray Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. According to the Apostle Paul, the fruit of the Spirit includes kindness and generosity, gifts of God we enjoy. As we present our offering, may the Spirit fill us with generosity, and multiply our kindness for the sake of Christ our Lord. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

O God, we know you to be kind and generous, so we bring our gifts in gratitude and joy. Pour out your Spirit on these gifts and on our lives, so that we may bear the fruit of your Spirit in every situation and relationship, through Christ, our Living Lord. Amen.

Song for the Journey BOP 436 God, we praise you for the morning

<u>Vs. 1</u> God, we praise you for the morning; hope spring forth with each new day, new beginning, prayer and promise, joy in work and in play.	<u>Vs. 2</u> God, we praise you for creation, mountain, seas and prairie land. Waking souls find joy and healing in your bountiful hand.
<u>Vs. 3</u> God, we praise you for compassion, all the loving that you show; human touching, tears and laughter, help your children to grow	<u>Vs. 4</u> God, we praise you for your Spirit, Comforter and daily friend; restless searcher, gentle teacher, strength and courage you send.
<u>Vs. 5</u> God, we praise you for the Saviour, Come that we may know your ways In his loving, dying, rising, Christ is Lord of our day	<u>Vs. 6</u> Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah Christ is Lord of our day

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. God set us free. God poured out his love upon us. Our hearts are filled with his love. So, love God and do whatever you please through the week.

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.