

Worship on July 17, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)
(Welcoming Elder: Edwin Webster)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 307 God of the sparrow, God of the whale
- Prayer for worship and Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Time for our children and youth
- Praise song – There is none like you

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Luke 10:30-37
- Sermon: Who is my neighbour?
- The Prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 569 O Jesus, I have promised

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

. Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, July 17th. Jesus called us to be his hands and feet to show the whole world his love and grace. Let us give our hearts to him and let him move our hearts as we worship God this day.

. We need one more volunteer to set up, operate, and tear down for Audio visual department. Please let Rev. Soong know if you are interested.

. 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. He will take a week off from August 1 to August 7. Paul Ku will come and lead our worship and the Rev. Robert Royal will be the emergent pastoral care.

. Bible Study (Christ-Centred Life) will begin on Wednesdays morning 10am from July 20th. All are welcome. Spread the word. It will be the time of connecting each other and praying for each other.

. 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.

. 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

The Lord is our light and our salvation! Whom shall we fear?

The Lord is our stronghold. Of whom shall we be afraid?

As we wait on the Lord, let us be strong and of good courage.

God has called us together, and we have come.

Let us thank God forever, because of what God has done.

We will proclaim God's holy name, for God is good. Let us worship God!

Praise song – BOP 307 God of the sparrow, God of the whale

<u>Vs. 1</u> God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars How does the creature say Awe How does the creature say Praise	<u>Vs. 2</u> God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet blast How does the creature cry Woe How does the creature cry Save
<u>Vs. 3</u> God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave How does the creature say Grace How does the creature say Thanks	<u>Vs. 4</u> God of the hungry God of the sick God of the prodigal How does the creature say Care How does the creature say Life
<u>Vs. 5</u> God of the neighbour God of the foe God of the pruning hook How does the creature say Love How does the creature say Peace	<u>Vs. 6</u> God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart How do your children say Joy How do your children say Home

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God of majesty and mystery, your love and purpose embrace the whole world. You set us in a world of beauty and bounty and invite us to meet you in the midst of its wonders. You call us to love each other in the example of Jesus to make your world a place of justice and compassion. In this hour of worship, send us your Spirit of wisdom and grace so that we can live out the praise on our lips in our day to day living, which we offer to you, our one and only God.

Lord Jesus Christ, you were born one of us to show us God's love for us. You came to teach us God's truth and to touch us with God's mercy. We confess we sometimes try to push you away. We cling to what we think, and resist your challenge to open up our lives to others. We limit our generosity, convinced we can't give any more. Forgive us, Lord Jesus, when we turn away from the example you set for 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 of the gospel! 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. Dear sisters and brothers, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace. Amen. Glory to God.
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

God of love and grace, thank you for calling us your church. You poured out your presence in us and made us church. Anywhere we go, we carry your presence. Everywhere we are is your kingdom. Let our children and youth know that. They are in your hands. No matter who they are, God still loves them faithfully. Wherever they are, God is still with them in love and grace. Encourage them and give peace in their hearts. Teach them your truth and let them form their identity in you. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: There is none like you

There is none like You No one else can touch my heart like You do
I could search for all eternity long and find there is none like You

Your mercy flows like a river wide And healing comes from Your hands
Suffering children are safe in Your arms There is none like You

Prayer for Illumination:

God of wisdom, by the leading of your Spirit, open our minds to receive new insight from familiar stories. Open our hearts to grasp deeper truth, revealed through the Scriptures, speak to us Jesus Christ. We trust in your Living Word. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 10:30-37

30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." **"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."**

SERMON: Who is my neighbour?

Last week, we read the same passage. The title was **go and do likewise**. It was the teaching of Jesus to the people who are able to help others. The focus was on the people who passed by the needy. But, toward the end of the week, last week, I couldn't help thinking of what if we are the man in need. Then, this story becomes totally different. I don't like to preach on the same passage for two weeks in a row, but I had to bring this scripture reading once again this week.

So, today's sermon title is **"Who is my neighbour?"**

Imagine you were on the way to Jerusalem to give sacrifice to God. At that time, Jerusalem was the only place for worship. We actually had to go to the temple of the God with an animal for the sacrifice. The purpose of worship was to restore the broken relationship with God. In other words, we had to bring a sacrificial animal, so that we can transfer our sins unto the sacrificial animal in order for us to become clean.

We were walking to Jerusalem. Robbers came. They beat us up and took everything we had. We were beaten so badly, we were half dead. We were not able to take care of our wounds. We were too sick. Too much pain in every where in our body. We couldn't even walk. We were left to die. So, we laid down on the street and waited for help. This was the only thing we could do.

At that time, there comes a priest. But, wait! He's crossing the street. He is walking on the other side now. He glanced at me few times, but he turned away and walked away. We are able to feel the body becoming cold. Our consciousness is becoming blurred. At that moment, there comes a man. Oh, this time, it's a Levite. He was the supporter of worship. **"Oh please, have mercy on me,"** we pray and pray and pray desperately.

But, wait, like the priest, he is crossing the street. No... He keeps looking at me, but he's not coming back to me. His walking pace becomes faster and faster. O please come back to me.

Without knowing, I fell asleep. I felt someone shaking me. Is the priest back or the Levite? They say that they are the men of God. Religious people. They have mercy from God, so they too will show God's mercy for the people in need like me?

Oh, neither of them. This is a Samaritan man. They don't know God. They do not observe the Law. Why mercy on me. What compassion! Thank you for coming to me!

V33 states, **"when [the Samaritan man] saw him he was moved with compassion."** He was moved by the Holy Spirit poured into his heart to cross over to where the man lies.

He came to me. Seeing me that I am alive, he pours oil to cleanse my wounds and wine to dull my pain. He picked me up, took me to an inn, and promised to return to resolve whatever would be owed. This Samaritan man had already received eternal life. He was living the heaven at that time right where he was.

Do you remember from last week? What was the way to inherit eternal life? How do we go to heaven? The expert in the law quoted the Bible, **"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself."** And Jesus answered to him, **"You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."** Live like you answer, then you are living the eternal life.

The way to eternal life is to love God with everything and to love neighbour as oneself.

Love your neighbour as yourself. The priest and the Levite knew this teaching from the Law, the Bible. But, still, they passed by a person in need.

In the perspective of the person in need, who would be his or her neighbour?

The Priest or the Levite who crossed to the other side and walked away? Are they keeping the law right? This shows that we cannot observe the law. We are not able to keep the law.

As verse **33 states, the heart of the Samaritan man was moved with compassion.** This is the work of the Holy Spirit. In other words, when we are in need, when we are in trouble, the one

who comes to save us is Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. People are passionate about eternal life, we want to live in the kingdom of God, and we long for deeper intimacy with God. However, we are innate to take care of ourselves first. Naturally, we are selfish.

What is Jesus' last question, **who is the neighbour of the person who fell in the hands of the robbers?** In other words, **who is the one who loved God with heart, mind, soul, and strength, and so loved the neighbour as the self?**

The Samaritan man. How was he able to do that? **"He was moved with compassion."** By the works of the Holy Spirit, he was able to become the neighbour of the person in need.

Who is my neighbour?

Rephrase this question. **Who is reliable when I am in trouble? Who can help me when I am in danger? Who is able to rescue me?**

The only one answer to these questions is **Jesus Christ**.

Back to the question of the expert of the law, **what must I do to inherit eternal life?**
To love God and to love people!

But, can we love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and can we love others as ourselves?

What I am saying is no. This is my final answer. We cannot.

So, are we not able to inherit the eternal life?

NO, we cannot. We cannot inherit the eternal life by our own ability.

We are the person who met the robbers. We are the person who are in the ditch. We are the person who are helpless. We are the person who left on the street to die.

So, who is our neighbour?

To us, who came? Jesus Christ came to rescue us.

Because we cannot give up ourselves in order to love God and love people, Jesus gave up himself for us. He gave himself up to show us the example. Jesus gave himself up for us to become the sacrificial Lamb to make us clean before the eyes of God. Jesus gave himself up in order to connect our brokenness with God.

Do you know what the role of the law? God set up the standard here where we cannot reach. And God is showing that we are short of God's qualification. We can never meet God's standard. But the experts of the Law thought that they observed the law perfectly and deceived themselves that they were enough.

The purpose of the law of God is for us to turn our focus to God from our ability to keep the law. It is for us to realize that we are the person in trouble, so that we realize that there is no one who can rescue us. There is no one who can save us. There is no one who can help us, but God.

Priest? Levite? Some respected people? Religious people? Mom or dad?

Give up the false hope. The only person who can help us is Jesus Christ. Give your heart to Jesus and put your life in Jesus alone. Jesus is our only hope, only way to life, and only one who can sacrifice himself for us. And Jesus is the only one who never gives up. Turn to Jesus and hold his hands.

This is the word of the Lord for us today.

Prayer for the people of God

God of love and grace, thank you for your mercy for us. Thank you for your salvation. You reached down to us from the heaven. You gave up all the glory and honour to save us. You had to become one of us. You came in human body, as a helpless baby. You went through our life, our hunger, thirst, pain, and emotions. You didn't have to, but you did for the sake of your love for us. Thank you and we praise you and we place our hope in you alone.

Like you moved the heart of the Samaritan man with your Holy Spirit, move in us. Stir our hearts. Lead and guide our steps.

At this time Lord, we are coming to your feet with our wants and needs. Hear our prayers and grant us our prayers in your ways and in your time. Prepare our hearts so we can accept your answer with humble and joyful hearts.

We first pray for our church. Thank you for this beautiful space for worship. Thank you for all the people who are able to come out and gathered together. Thank you for all the people who are able to join virtually. We thank you for the technologies we have these days.

As we worship you together, Lord, connect our hearts with your love. Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your love, so we can love each other and care for each other and pray for each other and have merciful hearts for each other. Through our relationships, we want to experience your love. Through our relationships, we want to glorify your name. We want to show the world your love and grace. We pray your guidance. Strengthen each of us. Strengthen your church, so we can carry out your presence every where we go. So, the world may be benefited through us. Let them taste the salt and let them enjoy your light! Through this worship Lord, prepare us and equip us to stand firm in our surroundings.

We also pray for the people who are suffering with their sickness. Touch their bodies with your healing hands. Embrace their whole selves in your arms. May they feel your warmth. May they feel your love. May they experience your peace. Faithful Father God, free them from their illnesses. Heal them and recover them. Provide every possible medical help. Also, we pray for their family members and friends. Fill their hearts with you. Give them sure hope that you are at work. Encourage them with your love and care. Embrace the whole family, God.

We also pray for the people who are experiencing difficulties in all other matters. Let them shift their eyes toward you. Let them focus on you alone, so they may gain energy and strength from you.

Help us remember when we are in trouble, the only one Rescuer is Jesus Christ.

Precious Father God, help us our weak faith. Help us our selfish selves.

Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your wisdom and courage, so we are filled with your insight and we are able to live out what we know.

We praise you and worship you. Be glorified through our lives.

In Jesus' precious and powerful and beautiful name, we pray Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. There are many ways to give in gratitude for God's goodness to us. Whatever we have to give, let us give joyfully and generously, trusting God to do more than we can ask or imagine, in the name of Christ, our Living Lord. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Living, and Loving Father God, the Samaritan man was moved by the Holy Spirit. He followed the realization in his heart. He was able to display your love and mercy with your help. With your help and guidance, we bring the gifts we have to offer to you. Bless and multiply them. Show us how they can best serve your purposes in our church and in your world. We place our hope in you, alone. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey BOP 569 O Jesus, I have promised

<u>Vs. 1</u> O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; be thou forever near me, my Saviour and my friend: I shall not fear the struggle if thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.	<u>Vs. 2</u> Oh let me feel thee near me: the world is ever near; I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear. My foes are ever near me, around me and within, but, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.
<u>Vs. 3</u> Oh let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will; oh speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; oh speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.	<u>Vs. 4</u> O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee, that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be, and, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; oh give me grace to follow my Saviour and my friend.

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. We are the hands and feet of Jesus. God moved the heart of the Samaritan man. In the same way, the Holy Spirit is at work in your life. Open your heart to him and fully rely upon the Holy Spirit. Let God move and touch your heart, so you show the world that Jesus is our neighbour.

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.