

Worship on July 31, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)
(Welcoming Elder: Trevor Preston)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 338 Let all things now living
- Prayer for worship and Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Time for our children and youth
- Praise song – BOP 625 Seek ye first

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Luke 12:13-21
- Sermon: He is not fool!
- The Prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 461 Be thou my vision

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

. Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, July 31st. God is our value. God waits for you to turn back our focus on him. Let us come back to God through our worship today.

. We were sad to learn that Miss Rita had decided to resign her position as Children's Church Leader as of June 28th. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours as she follows God's path. (The Session of St. Andrew's P.C. – Aurora)

. 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 will take next 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) is on Wednesdays morning 10am to 11:15am. All are welcome. Spread the word. It will be the time of connecting each other and praying for each other. (No Bible Study on August 3rd)

. 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

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

God's faithful love endures forever.

Has the Lord redeemed you? Then say so!

God has redeemed us from trouble and leads us on paths of justice and righteousness.

Praise the Lord for God's steadfast love is great!

Let us praise the Lord! Let us worship God.

Praise song – BOP 338 Let all things now living

<u>Vs. 1</u> Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise, who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days. God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the nights, till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, and forward we travel from light into Light	<u>Vs. 2</u> By law God enforces: the stars in their courses and sun in its orbit obediently shine The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God's divine We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration a song let us raise, Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving: to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!
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Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God of justice and joy, as we gather for worship this day, we join your whole creation to offer
you praise. We sense your glory in the grandeur of open skies and the expanding horizon.
We sense your power of new life in growing gardens and growing children. We trust your gift of
new life in Christ, rising in us with courage and compassion. Your Holy Spirit blows through us
like a fresh breeze in the breath of prayer. Fill us with a sense of your holiness in this hour, O
God, to renew us in our love for you and our care for your creation.

God of justice and generosity, we trust that all life flows from your hand, yet we confess we
often worry about how much life costs us. We like to have much more than enough and
we hesitate to share. Forgive us when our hearts long for the security of this world, not the
security of your love.

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, Remember the words of St Paul: “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.” This is our confidence and our reason to face every day boldly with faith. Hang on to this truth. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God’s generous grace. 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

Jesus is Lord of all. Creator God and ever-present Holy Spirit. We pray for our children and youth. As generation becomes younger, as the culture changes, there is more selfishness. People are focusing more on money. Many are in deep hatred. What is happening to our children and youth? Precious Father God, grant them wisdom and courage. Pour out your love upon them, so they are plunged into the stream of your love, not the current of this culture. Let them lead the culture of their generation. Let them shine your light and let them become the salt and make the difference in the world. Father God, let them grow in you like Samuel and let them live in your presence like David. Help them follow your steps like Jesus. Pour out your heart upon them and make them live in you all the days of their lives. In Jesus’ precious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: 625 Seek ye first

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these shall be added unto you. Allelu, Alleluia	Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find; knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, Alleluia	We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, Alleluia!
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Prayer for Illumination:

O God, send your Holy Spirit to open our minds and hearts to receive your wisdom in the Scriptures. Transform us by the grace we hear proclaimed, and empower us to live it out for the sake of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 12:13-21

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” 14 But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” 15 And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” 16 Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. 17 And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crop?’ 18 Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ 20 But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ 21 So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

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

SERMON: He is no fool

Today’s sermon title is **“He is no fool”**

Because the passage is short, I will read it once more in Message Paraphrase Bible.

13 Someone out of the crowd said, “Teacher, order my brother to give me a fair share of the family inheritance.” 14 He replied, “Mister, what makes you think it’s any of my business to be a judge or mediator for you?” 15 Speaking to the people, he went on, “Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot.” 16-19 Then he told them this story: “The farm of a certain rich man produced a terrific crop. He talked to himself: ‘What can I do? My barn isn’t big enough for this harvest.’ Then he said, ‘Here’s what I’ll do: I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll gather in all my grain and goods, and I’ll say to myself, Self, you’ve done well! You’ve got it made and can now retire. Take it easy and have the time of your life!’ 20 “Just then God showed up and said, ‘Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods—who gets it?’ 21 “That’s what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God.”

When I first read this passage few times, my focus was in the building. He had too much and his barn was too small for all of his crop. So, instead of helping others, he built a bigger barn and stored his crop. My initial focus was him not helping others, but building bigger barn. I thought he was too greedy. He already had enough, but he wants more and more.

But, reading the passage carefully, I was able to come to the conclusion that desiring to be rich and richer is not the problem, but v19 is the problem. **“And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”** MSG version, **“Then I’ll gather in all my grain and goods, and I’ll say to myself, Self, you’ve done well! You’ve got it made and can now retire. Take it easy and have the time of your life!”**

Him building a bigger barn was not a problem. Joseph told the King Pharaoh to do the same. But, Joseph’s intention was to prepare upcoming 7 long years of famine. So, too much crop, small barn, what would you do? I would do the same as this man. Building a bigger barn seems to be perfectly logical. This v19 is the problem. This man’s focus is only inward himself. **I, my, me, mine.**

Plentiful harvest was considered as God’s blessing. We cannot find any thanks or praise in his attitude. Great harvest, he goes like this. **OKAY GREAT! MORE FOR ME!**

His focus was on himself only. He forgot both the God who caused the earth’s bounty and the neighbour without access to the bounty. In his world, there are only I, My, Me, and Mine.

What is our relationship with our possessions? Today’s media gives us one message constantly. **MORE.** Spend more. Buy more. Have more. Use more. Supersize and maximize!

Wanting is not a main focus of God. Wanting is the result of our intention.

Why do we want it? **Why do we want MORE?** **Why do we want ME?**
Why do we want money?

What is enough? Are our desires and standards for what is enough driven by a determination to store up treasures for our own pleasure, or are our desires and standards for what is enough driven by our understanding of God’s blessings and our true purpose in life?

Do we want to measure up our lives by the standards of the media and present culture, seducing us to want more and more and more, or by the call of the gospel to be rich toward God?

What is the meaning for us to be a people who are **rich toward God**?

Some say, “use money for God.” God will be pleased. Well. It’s too manipulative. The God who created the whole universe does not need our money. Everything is his. If he wants, he uses. Special offerings for church building? Giving to help God’s Kingdom? It’s important, but it’s up to one’s own determination between God. It should come from the relationship of a person with God

How did you respond to God’s great blessings? The rich man in the parable tells his inner self **to relax, to eat, to drink, and to be merry**. He totally lost focus from the God who has the control over life and death. Money blocked his sight to see God. God’s great blessing blinded this rich man. If there is nothing after death, we are wasting our time. But, if there is God and if there is resurrection to our new body, we need to prepare. We need to focus on our eternity. We are given our lives not to use up for this world, but to prepare for the world to come and the world we will spend our eternity.

There was a missionary man named Jim Elliot. With four other missionaries, he went to Ecuador to preach the gospel. In order to be considered friendly, they dropped off presents from their airplane for few days. Some time later, they landed and met the people in person. They seemed to be approaching to them. But, from the bush, they brought spears and attached the missionaries.

Missionaries had guns in their hands to protect themselves. But, none of them used their guns. They could have saved their lives, but then they would lose the people there. So, they chose not to save their lives, but to save the eternity of the people in Ecuador.

USA became raged. **They said, five precious lives were wasted.**

But, the wives of the five missionaries spoke out. “Their lives are not wasted!”

Jim Elliot’s wife said, **“He had been preparing this moment from his childhood. He just made his dream come true.”** And these five wives, with their children, went to the place where their husbands were killed. The people there were puzzled. Why! Why did you come back? Mrs. Elliot replied, **“I am the wife of a man you killed 5 years ago, but we came here just because of the love of Jesus for you.”**

Jim Elliot, in his diary, wrote this and it became one of the most famous quotes.

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose – Jim Elliot” (x 2)

The rich man in the parable vs. Jim Elliot vs. us

Which kind of life would you choose? What is the intention? Why do we want what we want? What is the true value we are holding in our hearts?

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose – Jim Elliot”

What would you give up to gain one thing we cannot lose?
Choose God. Have God in the centre of your heart. Have the true life.

This is the word of the Lord for us today.

Prayer for the people of God

Thank you Jesus. Your death on the cross paid the penalty for our transgressions and broke sin's power over us. By receiving Christ as Saviour, we each become a new creation! Thank you. We are given a heart sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading and a mind that wants to know the Father better! We also receive the Holy Spirit's power to deny our selfish desires and the willingness to obey God. Then we can begin to make use of the capabilities our loving Father God has given us! Thank you and we praise you. Receive all the glory and honour and goodness and thanksgiving!

Apart from Jesus, we are nothing. We achieve nothing of lasting value, Lord. Help us always submit our will to Yours. Help us walk following your steps.

We pray for your glory to be experienced in our church. We pray for your grace and mercy be overflowing in our daily lives. We pray for your love may fill our hearts and care for each other. So we pray in one heart and one mind. Unite our heart and make it yours.

We pray for your church in all the earth. You purchased your church with your precious blood. You bought each person to restore the broken relationship with you. You rescued us to become like you and to follow your steps and use our life for you. You are the Head of church. You are the Lord of our lives. Let us give our Lordship to you. Let us invite you in the centre of our hearts and we become the church you intend us to be. Make us light and make us salt, so we show the world your love and grace and goodness.

We also pray for our people within our community. Help us and fill our needs and protect us. There are people who are suffering with their illness. Gracious Father God, lay your hands on them at this moment. Encourage them. Heal them. Strengthen them. Give them patience and courage to wait on you. Embrace them in your arms and speak your love to their ears.

There are people who are with many other situations and struggles. Turn their eyes back to you. Let them know that you are focusing on them. You listen to their sighs. You know their situations. You know their hearts and you know their struggles. Guide their steps and make them stand up again and help them stand firm in their daily lives.

Jesus, you are our precious. We look upon you. We focus on you with all our hearts and with all our lives. Receive our praise and thanksgiving. We offer up ourselves before your hands. Use us in your wills. In Jesus' precious and powerful and beautiful name, we pray Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. God has blessed us with abundant love in Christ and in creation. Let us share this abundance in our offering today so that others may also rejoice in God's goodness. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Abundant God, we bring you our gifts in gratitude for your generosity. Bless and multiply these gifts in Jesus' name, so that they can spread your goodness in the world and touch lives of those in need, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Song for the Journey BOP 461 Be thou my vision

Vs. 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art Thou my best thought in the day and the night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light	Vs. 2 Be thou my wisdom; be thou my true word, I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord Thou my great Father, thine own may I be, thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee
Vs. 3 Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight; be thou my armour and be thou my might, Thou my soul's shelter and thou my high tower, raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.	Vs. 4 Riches I heed not, nor vain earthly praise, thou my inheritance, through all my days, Thou and thou only, the first in my heart, high King of heaven, my treasure thou art!
Vs. 5 High King of heaven, when the battle is done, grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heaven's Sun; Heart of my own heart, whatever be fall, still be my vision, O ruler of all	

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. **“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”** What is your one thing you cannot lose? Look up to the eternity. Don't get blinded by the temporary pleasures this world offers. True happiness and true joy is in Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour alone.

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.