

Worship on August 14, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)
(Welcoming Elder: Edwin Webster)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 78 This is the day
- Prayer for worship and Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Time for our children and youth
- Praise song – BOP 358 There is a redeemer

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Hebrews 11:29-12:2
- Sermon: A living legacy of faith
- The Prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 324 Great is thy faithfulness

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

. Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, August 14th. As we worship and praise our Father God, may our relationship with him deepens and grows. So we may enjoy the intimate relationship with our Creator God!

. 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.

. 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.

. 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

O God, our Shepherd,

gather us together and lead us like a flock.

O God, our Gardener,

plant us like a vineyard so that we produce good fruit.

O God, our Merciful Judge,

we call upon your name in prayer and praise.

We bow before you, O God,

and offer our worship with glad and humble hearts.

Praise song – BOP 78 This is the day

<u>Vs. 1</u> This is the day, this is the day, That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.	<u>Vs. 2</u> Open to us, open to us the gates of God, the gates of God; we will go in, we will go in and praise the Lord, and praise the Lord. Open to us the gates of God; we will go in and praise the Lord. Open to us, open to us the gates of God
<u>Vs. 3</u> You are our God, you are our God; we will praise your name, we will praise your name; we will give thanks, we will give thanks for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness. You are our God; we will praise your name, we will give thanks for your faithfulness. You are our God, you are our God; we will praise your name.	

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God of majesty and mystery, we gather today in the presence of that great cloud of witnesses
who have worshiped you in song and service for centuries. Our praise joins theirs as we fix our
eyes on Jesus and wait for your Holy Spirit to guide us. We praise you for your great love and
mercy, revealed in Christ, at work in us through the Holy Spirit.

Father God, we offer you all glory and honour in our worship, seeking to renew our faith and
commitment to serve you in the world that belongs to you.

Attentive God, you care for us like a gardener tending a beautiful vineyard, blessing us with what
we need to be fruitful. Yet, we confess we fail to live up to your hopes for us. Instead of love and
kindness, we produce anger and resentment. Instead of generosity, we produce greed and
jealousy. Forgive us, O God. In your mercy, renew in us the fruit of the Holy Spirit through the
grace of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 love of God! Although we have not always been faithful to God, God remains faithful to us. In Jesus Christ, God offers us forgiveness. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, God renews us to live faithfully in Jesus' name. Thanks be 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

Beautiful Jesus, thank you for calling us to praise your name. Thank you for inviting us into your beautiful presence. Thank you Jesus for your faithful steps walking the righteousness. We want to follow your steps. We want to hand down our faith to our children and youth. They are the future and hope for the world to come. They are to continue your church in their generations. Gracious Father God, help us to follow your example. Help us live as living sacrifice for you. So that our next generation can follow you with the help of our obedience to you. This faith is too precious not to share. Please fill their hearts with you, so they live in the fullness of your calling. Fill the world with your love and grace through them. Teach them and use them in your ways. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: 358 There is a redeemer

<u>Vs. 1</u> There is a redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son, Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy one	<u>Vs. 2</u> Jesus my Redeemer, name above all names, Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, oh for sinners slain
<u>Vs. 3</u> When I stand in glory, I will see his face, And there I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place	<u>Chorus</u> Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son, and leaving your Spirit till your work on earth is done

Prayer for Illumination:

Spirit of God, open our minds and hearts to receive God's wisdom in the Scriptures. Show us how to live out that wisdom today and tomorrow, as we follow Jesus, who is for us. God's Living Word. Amen.

Scripture: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. 31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. 32 And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 35 Women received their

dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. 36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. 39 Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. 12 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

SERMON: A living legacy of faith

Today’s sermon title is **“A living legacy of faith”**

Legacy is an amount of money or property left to someone. As Christ followers, we hope and pray to hand down our faith to our next generations. We want to leave legacy of faith to our children. Through today’s passage, God is teaching us the best way to **leave the legacy of faith.** It is **us becoming a living legacy of faith.**

Today, I will give three points that I am going to cover, so the flow would be easier.

[1] Jesus set the example of life of faith. He was a living legacy of faith.

[2] Faithful people followed the examples of Jesus. They were living legacy of faith.

[3] Now it’s our turn to become a living legacy of faith.

[1] Jesus set the example of life of faith by becoming a living legacy of faith.

The author of Hebrews images life as a long-distance race. Jesus is the one who runs ahead, sets the pace. So, as the people of God, we are being cared by Jesus. Today’s passage teaches us the vision for God’s church. While living the faithful life has always been a challenge, God’s people can trust in their king. The purpose of this passage is to encourage God’s people to stay faithful to God in the face of the challenges of life.

Faith allows people to see beyond what is right in front of their situations and their daily problems. Faith allows people **to see what God is doing in their midst, to see what God has done throughout the ages, and to see the future joy God has in store for us.**

Also, the author referred **Jesus as the pioneer. What does a pioneer do?**

A pioneer is the one who leads the way and opens up new possibilities and also prepares that path for those who come behind.

The author also made **parallel comparison between the future joy and the immediate shame of the cross.** // **“For the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.” (v2)**

In the current situation of believers at that time, they were experiencing difficulties because of their faith. They wondered what values or benefits they would gain by having faith in God. By **this comparison of immediate disadvantage and eternal benefit**, they would be encouraged to keep the faith. By looking up Jesus, our faith is strengthened and empowered in order to follow the steps of Jesus. Because Jesus lived a life of a living legacy of faith showing us the great example, we are able to focus on the joy in life, despite the suffering caused by faith.

[2] Faithful people followed the example of Jesus and they were living legacy of faith.

In difficulties, we pray. We pray to remove our difficulties. But, sometimes, God doesn't seem to be listening to our prayers. We may ask for relief from suffering or hardship, but the Lord's will may be to use these things to produce Christlike character within us. We have too many examples for this in the Bible. People who crossed the Red Sea by walking, the people walked around Jericho and witnessed the wall falling down, and the prostitute Rahab who hid the spies in peace. God works in the midst of his own people. We trust the God who stayed true to our ancestors in faith and we trust the God who will stay true to us as well, in his faithfulness. Today's passage is focused on our lives on staying faithful to the God who is faithful to us.

Today's passage is forward looking. Jesus Christ holds the future of God's people. Those in the Bible who were forward looking and trusted God received their reward even though they could not see where God was leading them. Christ on the cross was not consumed with the pain of the moment, as great as it was, but kept an eye on the joy that would come when he went to heaven and was seated with the Father.

The Christ followers were led by God. The Holy Spirit not only prays for us according to God's will, but He also clarifies the Father's will to us. This is the wisdom of God upon us. Scripture tells us what the Lord desires and how he works.

39 Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

These verses are my focus of today's message. They were great in faith. God praise their faith. But, without us, they cannot be made perfect. This means that we are their fruit. Without us, without their fruit of faith, their faithful life would be meaningless. Their faithful life would be meaningless without leaving a legacy of faith.

With us being their fruit, their faithful lives finally become perfect in the eyes of God. And this is something better reward for their enduring faithful lives.

[3] Now it's our turn to live as a living legacy of faith.

Having faith in God, now, we are in the position of our ancestors like Moses, David, and Samuel and many others. They left us the legacy of faith, therefore we are able to have faith in God and have the truth in God and have the hope in God.

First Jesus became the example of the legacy of faith. Then, secondly, faithful people followed the steps of Jesus becoming the legacy of faith showing us how to live. We are to look up to the joy which God stores for us. As Christ looked to heaven, we look to Christ.

Hebrews 12:1-2, 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

These verses call out to us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus. The author gave us enough examples! **V32, "What more should I say!?"**

Jesus was the legacy of faith. People of faith were the living legacy of faith. Now, as the beneficiaries of faith, as the fruit of their faithful lives, **we are to run the race they ran.** Now, it is our time to look up to Jesus and live faithfully before God **becoming the living legacy of faith.**

Are you excited to run the race? / Are you excited to live as the living legacy of faith? / Are you excited to bear fruit of your faith through your faithful life in the God / who holds us in his arms, / who walks with us, / who takes care of us, / who loves us infinitely, / who never gives us up, / who is powerful and / who is faithful to us all the time!

Let us look up to Jesus, our ultimate example of faithful life. **If you want to leave one thing in this life, what would you leave? / Let us leave the legacy of faith.**

This is the word of the Lord for us today.

Prayer for the people of God

Gracious and glorious Father God, we praise you and we worship you and we lift your name with our whole hearts and with all that we have and with our whole selves. How can we praise you enough! How can we understand your great love for us!

Through the history, through your great works in your people over the ages, you prepared all the things we need. You gave the example to follow, you gave the power to walk the steps, you gave your Holy Spirit to guide and teach us and help us know what you want from us. Wow. God, you are an awesome God who are with us all the time and who guide us all the time. Thank you.

Lord God, we thank you for the living legacies of faith in our ancestors. We have some great examples from the Bible as well as in our history. Gracious Father God, now, we want to become the living legacy of faith for our future generations. We want to help them by showing our faithfulness following your steps. Give us strength, give us wisdom, and give us courage!

Lord, all we can do is to ask you. Guide us and help us. So, when our children recall our lives, they may be directed to Jesus. Through our lives, help them turn their eyes toward you. This is our prayer for our life. Lord, help us and Lord, be glorified through our lives.

Loving Father God, we pray for the people who are distant from you. They are losing you. With our love and care and prayers, let them come back to you. Let them see you through our love and care and prayers. Sunday attendance is important, this is the time for us to recharge our spiritual energy in your presence. This is the time that we are exposed to your glory. This is the appointed time that you are showing yourself to our church. Let this precious time become precious to each of our heart. Glorious God, your glory does not change whether we glorify you or not. You are glory itself. Help us come to your presence and know your glory.

Merciful and gracious God, we pray for our congregants. There are brothers and sisters who are suffering with their physical pains. Have mercy upon them and free them from their pains. Give strength to them. Encourage them. Embrace them in your arms. Speak your love to them. Heal them. Fill their hearts with your love and peace.

Also, there are people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. God, you are with us all the time. Help them know that. Let them live in your presence, in your power, and in your love. Help them overcome what hinders their joy and peace from you. Let all your people enjoy your presence and glorify you through their lives. You are the only One who are worthy of our praise and worship. You are the most precious in our lives. Be with us all the time. In Jesus' precious and powerful and beautiful name, we pray Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. Let us be thankful for the good gifts God gives us in Christ and in creation, let us present to God the fruit of our labour for God's work in the church and the world. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Faithful God, bless the gifts we offer to you today. Use them to plant seeds of faith, hope and love in the world, so that your goodness will grow among your people, and your name be honoured for Christ's sake. Let this gifts of ours help us leave the living legacy of faith. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey BOP 324 Great is thy faithfulness

<u>Vs. 1</u> Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; There is no shadow of turning with thee; Thou changest not thy compassions they fail not As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be	<u>Vs. 2</u> Summer and winter and spring time and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above, join with all nature in eloquent witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love
<u>Vs. 3</u> Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strengthen for today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!	<u>Chorus</u> Great is thy faithfulness; great is thy faithfulness; morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. We are to live as a living legacy of faith. Have this idea in your heart for the week. May God help you and guide you 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.