

Worship on August 21, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)
(Welcoming Elder: Anne Neuman)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 685 How firm a foundation
- Prayer for worship and Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Time for our children and youth
- Praise song – BOP 20 The steadfast love of the Lord (Chorus only)

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Hebrews 12:14-29
- Sermon: Perfected by Jesus
- The Prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 376 Lord, the light of your love is shining

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

. Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, August 21st. By dying on the cross, Jesus made us perfect. Let us give thanks and praise our 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

With all our hearts, let us praise the Lord.

With all that we are, we will praise God's holy name!

With all our hearts, let us bless the Lord.

We will never forget how kind God has been.

The Lord forgives our sins, heals our weakness, and gives us life everlasting.

Let us worship God who is merciful and patient, God's love never fails.

Praise song – BOP 685 How firm a foundation

Vs. 1 How firm a foundation Ye saints of the Lord Is laid for your faith in God's excellent word What more can God say than to you hath been said to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled	Vs. 2 Fear not, I am with thee Oh be not dismayed For I am thy God And will still give thee aid I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand
Vs. 3 When through the deep waters I call thee to go The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow For I will be with thee thy troubles to bless And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress	Vs. 4 When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie My grace all sufficient shall be thy supply The flames shall not hurt thee I only design thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine
Vs. 5 The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose I will not I will not desert to his foes That soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake I'll never no, never no, never forsake	

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

O God, our strength and refuge, We come together to worship you and praise your loving kindness. In your presence, we rest from what distracts us, to focus on your truth and goodness. You call us to live in relationship with you. Through the love of Jesus Christ, you repair our lives. Through the power of your Spirit, you engage us to serve you in the world. Receive our prayers and our praise this day, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, revive our hope and our energy and make us ready to answer your call.

O God, our judge and our hope, we confess we often turn away from your truth, and ignore your call to do justice. Forgive us when we say one thing in worship but do another things in the ways we live. Forgive us when we ignore how others are treated and think only of ourselves. Let your judgment awaken us and your mercy refresh 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, The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Believe the good news of the Gospel. In Christ, God has offered us mercy and love. Receive God's forgiveness this day and share it with each other for Christ's sake.

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 children. Thank you for inviting us into your amazing presence. With our weak faith, we are standing before you, Lord. We are standing before you boldly not because of our own faith, but because of what Jesus did for each of us. Jesus died for us and made us perfect in the eyes of God. Jesus took our place, so we are no longer our own, but we are yours. This precious faith, we want to hand down to our precious children and youth. Loving God, please give them faith. Fill their hearts with truth and life. Let them know the true blessing is to be with you. Pour down your unfailing love upon our children. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: 20 The steadfast love of the Lord

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. Your mercies never come to an end; They are new every morning, new every morning Great is your faithfulness, O Lord, great is your faithfulness.

Prayer for Illumination:

Lord Jesus, you taught in synagogues and on hillsides, bringing healing and wisdom to those who listened. By the Holy Spirit, teach us through the words of Scripture, and bring us your healing and wisdom. We are here in your presence with our ears open you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Hebrews 12:14-29

14 Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and through it many become defiled. 16 See to it that no one becomes like Esau, an immoral and godless person, who sold his birthright for a single meal. 17 You know that later, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, even though he sought the blessing with tears. 18 You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, 19 and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. 20 (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.") 21 Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. 25 See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we

escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! 26 At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” 27 This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; 29 for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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

SERMON: Perfected by Jesus

Today’s sermon title is **“Perfected by Jesus ”**

What kinds of images you get from today’s passage? Mount Sinai and Mount Zion. The place of fear and the place of grace. When God shaking the earth, shakable removed, but unshakable remains. Same God, but there are different focus depending on our spiritual positions.

When I read this passage first, I was fascinated by the fact that Jesus made us perfect. From this perspective, I titled today’s message “Perfected by Jesus.”

Bible translators usually divide section by the theme and give subtitles. **NRSB (New Revised Standard Version)** titled this passage, **“Warnings against rejecting God’s grace.”** **NLT (New Living Translation)** titled today’s passage **“A Call to listen to God.”** And **NIV (New International Version)** titled **“warning and encouragement.”**

We know, by these different titles, what this passage is talking about. There are two opposite images in today’s passage. For example, there are two mountains. Mountain Sinai and Mountain Zion. **On Mountain Sinai**, after exile from Egypt, God led his own people under the leadership of Moses. Yet, God came to them **in burning fire, darkness, gloom and storm. (V18)** Also, God’s voice was too terrifying that people begged to God not to speak another word. **V21, Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”**

On the other hand, on mountain Zion, this is the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and there are innumerable angels in festal gathering. V22-24 in MSG, **“No, that’s not your experience at all. You’ve come to Mount Zion, the city where the living God resides. The invisible Jerusalem is populated by throngs of festive angels and Christian citizens. It is the city where God is Judge, with judgments that make us just. You’ve come to Jesus, who presents us with a new covenant, a fresh charter from God. He is the Mediator of this covenant. The murder of Jesus, unlike Abel’s—a homicide that cried out for vengeance—became a proclamation of grace.”**

This is today’s core message. Our ancestors experienced Mount Sinai not because they were more sinful and not because we are better. They experienced Mount Sinai, the fear of God just because they did not have the Mediator we have. Because we have Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, we are able to experience the difference from our ancestors.

We come to Mount Zion, the city where the living God resides.

It is the place where **God is Judge, with judgments that make us just.** What kind of judgment is this? God has no sin and he is holy, different from us. **We, coming to God?**

With what God will judge us? With our sinful nature, we do not have any possibility to experience God’s grace. This is why we need our Mediator, Jesus Christ between us and God.

You've come to Jesus, who presents us with a new covenant, a fresh charter from God. He is the Mediator of this covenant. Because of Jesus Christ, we have new charter with God.

We don't have to come to God with our own sacrificial animal. Remember? Before Jesus, the purpose of worship was to cleanse their sins before God. They brought an animal so that they can transfer their sins to that sacrificial animal. The priest put his one hand on the worshipper, and the other hand on the sacrificial animal to transfer the worshipper's sins to the animal. In this way, the sacrificial animal became the mediator between the worshipper and God. The animal shed blood and be killed because of the worshipper's sins. **Romans 6:23, "For the wage of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

So, the original agreement between God and us was this. In order for us to come go God, we need to be holy because God is holy. That is sin-less. God cannot be with sin. Therefore, we had to bring a sacrificial animal to shed blood for us.

But, after Jesus, he changed the whole thing. Jesus Christ Himself came to the place of our sacrificial animal. He died in the place of the sacrificial animal for us. Once and for all, Jesus died and shed his blood. He satisfied the **original agreement** that **the wage of sin is death.** **Jesus took the death. On mount Zion, God is the Judge, who makes us just and perfect with the judgment according to what Jesus did for us.** This is why **Jesus is the Mediator. Jesus is the Bridge** to God for us.

We were created to be with God.

We were separated from God because of our sin.

We weren't able to experience God's grace because of the separation.

But, God gave Jesus as our Mediator, Bridge.

Therefore, we are able to come to God again through our Saviour Jesus.

This is why, **"John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**

Also, v24, **"to sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel."**

In other words, **"The murder of Jesus, unlike Abel's—a homicide that cried out for vengeance—became a proclamation of grace."**

The murder of Jesus became a proclamation of grace of God for us.

This is how we become perfected by Jesus in the eyes of God, the Judge.

V28-29 in MSG, **"Do you see what we've got? An unshakable kingdom! And do you see how thankful we must be? Not only thankful, but brimming with worship, deeply reverent before God. For God is not an indifferent bystander. He's actively cleaning house, torching all that needs to burn, and he won't quit until it's all cleansed. God himself is Fire!"**

We have Jesus, the unshakable foundation of our life. God's voice will shake the whole creation. Everything shakable cannot remain in God. By our own power and strength and determination, we will be shakable. We won't be able to remain in God in his thundering voice.

But, **do you see what we've got? We've got Jesus Christ as our Mediator and Saviour. Jesus is God Himself and he will never be shaken.**

Know that we have Jesus. If we feel distant from him? It might be the time that we go our ways, our shakable ways. If you are going through that time, turn your eyes to Jesus. He's got us. He's holding us. He will never give us up. **Jesus gave up his life for who?**

Please repeat after me: Jesus gave up his life for me.

Have him and never lose him. And even if you feel like you lost him, don't worry. Jesus's got you. Because of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are just and perfect in the eyes of God.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Prayer for the people of God

Thank you Jesus for your sacrifice for us. Thank you Jesus for your love for us. Thank you Jesus for your unfailing and unending love for us. Thanks to you, we are perfected before the eyes of God. Thanks to you, we have eternal life in God. Thanks to you that we have the truth and the way and the life in you. We praise you and we worship you at this time of worship.

We first pray for the people whose hearts are falling away from you. Jesus, you gave up your life for them. You shed your precious blood for them. You bore all the pains and shame for them. Lord Jesus, fill our hearts with pain and sadness for losing precious lives. Let us cry out to you for the souls not knowing the truth and life. Only you are our Lord and Saviour. Give us wisdom and courage to display your goodness, your awesomeness to the whole world through our own lives. We desire and long to live for you. We want to live up to your calling as the children of yours, as the disciples of yours, as the billboard of your love and grace.

As church, we want to stand up. As your powerful hands and feet, we stop our ignorance, but start looking our surroundings fixing our eyes on you, the Source of power, the Source of our life, and the Source of our truth, Jesus. Through our lives, and through our worship, Lord, be displayed. Be glorified, so your light be shone through us.

We pray for those who are having hard times now. We remember those who are sick. Listen to their prayers Lord. Heal their body. Recover their health. Let their lives be the testimonies to this world. Fill their hearts with faith and peace and love, pouring down from you. Use their lives to change this world and draw the lost souls towards you, Lord.

Embrace this world, our community, our church, our families, and each individual. Look at our realities. Search our hearts. Help us stand before you with honest and humble hearts. We are weak. We need you. We fail. We fall from time to time. Hold our hands and lead our steps. Help us remember that you accomplished everything for us and you made us perfect. Be praised and be worshipped and be glorified through us, through our daily lives. In Jesus' precious and powerful and beautiful name, we pray Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. With gratitude for the healing and hope that Jesus offers, let us present our offering to God. May our gifts help to share that healing and hope throughout God's world in Christ's name. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Lord Jesus, you taught in synagogues and on hillsides, bringing healing and wisdom to those who listened. By the Holy Spirit, teach us through the words of Scripture, and bring us your healing and wisdom, so we live in your ways. Be blessed and be honoured. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey BOP 376 Lord, the light of your love is shining

<u>Vs. 1</u> Lord, the light of your love is shining In the midst of the darkness, shining Jesus, light of the World, shine upon us Set us free by the truth you now bring us Shine on me Shine on me	<u>Vs. 2</u> Lord, I come to your awesome presence From the shadows into your radiance By your blood I may enter your brightness Search me try me Consume all my darkness Shine on me Shine on me
<u>Vs. 3</u> As we gaze on your kingly brightness So our faces display your likeness Ever changing from glory to glory Mirrored here may our lives tell your story Shine on me Shine on me	<u>Chorus</u> Shine Jesus shine Fill this land with the Father's glory Blaze, Spirit blaze, Set out hearts on fire Flow, river, flow Flood the nations with grace and mercy Send forth your word, Lord And let there be light

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. We are made perfect by Jesus. We sometimes feel like that we are useless and too weak. But, because of what Jesus did for us, we are in victory already. We are living perfect life before God. Remember Jesus and put him in the centre of your life.

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.