

Worship on September 11, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)
(Welcoming Elder: Edwin Webster)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Royal Anthem (BOP 834)
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 290 Immortal, invisible, God only wise
- Prayer for worship and Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Time for our children and youth (Presentation of the Bible)
- Praise song – BOP 669 And Jesus said our God is like s Shepherd

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Luke 15:1-10
- Sermon: Rejoice with me for I have found you
- The Communion

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 687 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine

We Serve

- O Canada BOP 800
- Benediction

Announcements:

. After announcements, we pause for a moment of silence to prepare our hearts and minds for worship and commemorate the Queen Elizabeth II and pray for God's blessing by singing Royal Anthem "God save the King."

. Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, September 11th. God's love is for us each individual, as well as us as community. Let us experience the works of God in our community.

. There is the Communion during today's worship.

. 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.

Soong @ revsoonghuh@hotmail.com

. Please help Ukraine and Pakistan 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.

Royal Anthem (BOP 834)

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, you have searched us and known us.

You know when we sit down and when we rise up.

You discern our thoughts from far away.

Before a word is on our tongues, Lord, you know it completely.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for us, and so we humble ourselves in worship.

In this hour, search us and know our hearts, O God, and lead us in the way everlasting.

Praise song – BOP 290 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

<u>Vs. 1</u> Immortal, invisible, God only wise In light inaccessible hid from our eyes Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise	<u>Vs. 2</u> Unresting, unchanging and silent as light, Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might Thy justice like mountains high soaring above Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love
<u>Vs. 3</u> To all life thou givest, to both great and small, in all life thou livest, the true life of all we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree and wither, and perish; but naught changeth thee	<u>Vs. 4</u> Great Father of glory, pure Father of light, Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight All laud we would render; oh help us to see 'tis only the splendour of light hidest thee

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Storytelling God, we gather in your presence this day, called by the stories of your people over the centuries. You are the source of wisdom we seek, Your mercy eases the troubles that stir our hearts. And we come to praise you, for your stories have the power to challenge us and change us. Draw near to us as we draw near to you this day. Tell us the stories that will change our lives, through the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

We gather in Jesus' name to hear the stories he told, to gain wisdom and to know your Spirit's guidance. Yet we confess that pride prevents us from hearing the good news and that we resist the power of your Word to change us. Forgive what we have been, help us amend who we are and set us free to be who you have called us to be.

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, Paul asked, “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.” Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God’s most generous grace.

May the 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 (Presentation of the Bible)

Gracious and loving Father God, thank you for these beautiful children and youth of our future hope. We pray that you guide them to your faith. Let them have questions about you. Let them challenge your teachings. Let them question the true meaning of life. Pour out your wisdom upon them through your word. Let them have courage to open up your word and read it and live it. Lord, they are yours. Accept them and use them. In Jesus’ precious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: BOP 669 And Jesus said our God is like s Shepherd

<u>Vs. 1</u> And Jesus said, our God is like a shepherd Who has lost a sheep, and leaving all the rest, He searched until he found what had been lost “Rejoice,” he cried, “I’ve found the lost!” Rejoice, rejoice with me, rejoice	<u>Vs. 2</u> And Jesus said, our God is like a woman who has lost a coin. She lit a lamp and searched all night until she found what had been lost. “Rejoice,” she cried, “I’ve found the lost!” Rejoice, rejoice with me, rejoice
<u>Vs. 3</u> And Jesus said, our God is like a father who has lost a son. He waited every day for him until his son returned to him. “Rejoice,” he cried, “my son came home!” Rejoice, rejoice with me, rejoice	

Prayer for Illumination:

Storytelling God, send your Spirit to open our minds and hearts to hear your Word. Challenge us, change us, and move us to follow Christ, who speaks to us as a friend whose word we can value and trust. In Jesus’ precious name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 15:1-10

1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” 3 So he told them this parable: 4 “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. 8 “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 When she has found it, she calls together her friends and

neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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

SERMON: Rejoice with me for I have found you

Today's sermon title is **"Rejoice with me for I have found you"**

Lost sheep. Lost coin. The owner searches it until he or she finds it.
And when the sheep or the coin is found, the owner invites community to rejoice together.

There are **two perspectives in today's passage.**

One, we are not the searcher, but we are the lost sheep or the lost coin.

Two, we are to accept the lost ones when they return to God whoever they are and what kinds of appearances they look to create God's community within us.

I have three boys. Sometimes, without my wife, I go places with three young boys. It never happened so far, but what if I lost one. Can I leave the two unattended and go by myself to search for the lost one?

The Bible does not mention anything about the 99 unattended sheep. But, imagining the desperate feeling of the lost one, and imagining the lost sheep is one of my boys, then I get the urgent feeling that the lost one needs my attention immediately.

So, the focus of this passage is not the remaining 99. Looking at the two parables together, although the lost sheep might be in danger with desperate feelings, the lost sheep and the lost coin are treated equally. They are precious, but they are lost objects. They do not have any ability to return to the place where they are supposed to be. They have no role in this. So, this passage is not about the lost ones.

Then, this passage is about the searching shepherd or the searching woman, who is God.

Initially, these parables are told in response to the complaints of Pharisees and the scribes when they grumbled about the company Jesus kept. Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners. The Pharisees and the scribes had problem with Jesus when Jesus welcomed sinners and ate with them. **Jesus welcomed "sinners" and ate with "sinners."**

This "sinners" are the lost ones. They need rescue. They need forgiveness and they need to restore the broken relationship with God.

The lost souls need God's rescue, God's redemption. They need to establish the connection with God. This is restoring the broken relationship with God. It is having a person faith in God.

First, God, who is a faithful searcher, is teaching us that we need to be found by God. Because we are the lost ones, we need to build God-connection first.

Did you have that experience? When you first experienced God, your relationship with God was restored. You are connected to God. Your heart and God's heart are connected. You know what God wants because God lives in you. Our sins are forgiven. We became clean in the eyes of God. Therefore, when we are found by God, when we are redeemed by God, we are no longer "sinners," which this passage describes. So, this is the first point. We are found by God and we are no longer "sinners" in the eyes of God.

But, the Pharisees and the scribes continued to consider the converted “sinners.”

At the end of each parable, Jesus urged to repent. To whom is Jesus talking?

Remember why Jesus started these parables?

Because the Pharisees and the scribes complained for accepting “sinners,” but they are no longer sinners now.

Jesus is not talking to the ones just found by him. He is talking to the ones who think that they are 99 who are safe and acceptable and clean and holy and obedient. They think they are the good ones, no need to repent.

But, Jesus is calling them out for repentance because they are “sinners.”

This second sinners are not tax collectors and sinners from v1. **“Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.”** But this sinners are the ones who are judging them.

Jesus rescued the tax collectors and sinners. So, they are not sinners in the eyes of God any more. Jesus redeemed them. God accepted them. Their identity was changed.

But, the community of faith, who were obedient to the teaching of God, could not accept them because of their unbelief. Remember from last week, God is big and we are small?

They put their laws and judgments before God. To them, their obedience to God was much bigger than God himself. Their laws and teachings took over the place of God.

So, God is shifting his focus from the lost ones to these people who closed their hearts to God and God’s work.

God does not miss anybody. Whether we believed in God from our birth or we are becoming curious about God, God cares for each person.

Through these parables, God shows one, he is the searcher and we are the lost sheep or the lost coins. Two, God wants the restored relationship with God to expand.

These parables expand their territory. First, the sheep was found, the coin was found. This is the personal relationship being restored. This is turning away from our own selves to God. This is the salvation by God’s sovereignty and God’s own searching work. The sheep and the coin did not do anything. In fact, we have no ability. **We have no power to be rescued.** This passage shows that we do not have any role in our salvation.

So, this personal salvation story expands to community of faith. This is what God wants.

The owner of the lost sheep, and the owner of the lost coin, when they found the sheep or the coin, they invited their neighbours to rejoice together. **They build community of joy.**

So, God saves both the first “sinners” and the second “sinners.”

God never neglects anyone. He never gives up searching for the lost ones. And, he never forgets to inviting all of us to rejoice together as well as to repent in order to draw us into the eternal celebration.

Be thankful that we are found by God. And be joyful because the lost souls are being rescued by God, just like we were rescued by God. This is why we can rejoice with God for we are found.

This “we” includes all God’s people. So, let us rejoice being able to join the family of God and be glad for the ones who are joining in our family of God.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

The Lord’s Table This is the time for the Communion at the Lord’s Table.

The joy of union with God is God’s gift for us. God’s compassionate heart is guiding us through Jesus Christ who is alive. Let the unity of Father God, Son God, and the Holy Spirit God be with us as we gather at the Lord’s Table and share this meal prepared by our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:) **(Please say BOLD print together)**

L: The Lord be with you. **ALL: And also, with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: In your wisdom, you shaped us in your image, your grace freely offered to us. Foolishly, we chased after temptation’s dreams, becoming skilled workers in constructing evil out of your good and wonderful gifts. You showed the upmost patience toward us, sending prophets with challenging words to remind us of your promises to all, but we were too foolish to listen. So, you sent Jesus Christ to us who, like a friend who has lost touch with those dearest to his heart, reaches out to reconnect with them. Therefore, with the company of the saints in glory, with the sinners and losers of this world, **we lift our hearts in joyful praises.**

(Sanctus) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L: The wise seek after you, God of grace and glory, for you sent Jesus Christ, our Lord to us. Like a woman searching the shadows for a lost coin, he comes, to find the greatest treasure. Like a brother who has lost touch with his siblings, he comes, to reconcile us as your family. Like a sister who would stay awake while younger children sleep, he comes, to be our true friend in every moment, in every place. Like a shepherd who would face danger in rescuing his sheep, Jesus goes, to the cross, experiencing our death, so he can carry us into the resurrected life. As we gather at his feast, as we know we have been completely accepted, **We proclaim the mystery of faith:**

P: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

L: As we come to your Table at this time, pour out your Holy Spirit upon this company of sinners who long to be right-living people, and on the gifts you have prepared. As we eat of the Bread of Life, strengthen our hearts and spirits, so we may search for the lost. As we drink from the Cup of Grace, may we be found to be faithful, as you appoint us to serve the oppressed. And at that time when we will be with you, gathered around the Table of the Lamb with all who were lost, and like us, were found, we will join our voices in singing your praises, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

Breaking of the BREAD and Pouring the WINE – prepare your Bread and Wine

“This is the **body** of Christ, broken for you.” (BREAD)

Take, eat, remember, and believe that the precious body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (Let us take it)

“This is the **blood** of Christ, poured out for you.” (CUP)

Take, drink, remember, and believe that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (Let us drink it)

Prayer after Communion:

God of love, thank you for finding us. Thank you for calling us into your family. Help us have you in the centre of our hearts so we live as the found. Also, help us welcome the new members of the community of faith. Open our hearts and fill our hearts with your love.

As we look around, there are too much sadness and pains all around the world. Compassionate God, we want to offer them up to your hands. With your love and grace, and with your healing power, help them.

We remember the war and suffering in Ukraine and Eastern Europe. You are the Lord of all.

Teach us through this and give us faith that you are in control in your good wills.

We remember China and its earthquakes, and Pakistan and its flood. Please provide them with your generosity and send helping hands.

We remember recent rampage in Saskatchewan. Please pour out your peace and healing upon them. Please comfort the victims and their families. Restore their community.

And we remember the Royal Family and the Commonwealth including Canada. God, you alone are true king. Use the new king and use him in your wills.

We remember our congregation. Gracious Father God, protect each person and provide our needs. Help us stand strong, so we may build strong community of love and acceptance with your grace and love.

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. In Jesus’ parable, the woman who found the lost coin rejoiced over something precious. What we offer to God is precious to us. When we present it to God, God rejoices in our gifts. Let us bless God with our offering. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Lord God, receive our gifts offered in a spirit of generosity and humility. Bless and use them for the work that you long to do in the world in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Song for the Journey BOP 687 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine

<u>Vs. 1</u> Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood	<u>Chorus</u> This is my story; this is my song. Praising my Saviour all the day long; This is my story; this is my song. Praising my Saviour all the day long;
<u>Vs. 2</u> Perfect submission, perfect delight, Visions of rapture now burst on my sight Angels descending bring from above	<u>Vs. 3</u> Perfect submission, all is at rest I in my Saviour am happy and blest Watching and waiting looking above

Echoes of mercy, whispers of love	Filled with his goodness, lost in his love
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BOP 800 – O Canada

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. We were the lost, but we were found by God. Now, we are to build the community of God, all together with one heart. Remember God who never misses anyone.

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.