

Worship on September 25, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)
(Welcoming Elder: Robert Revington)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 57 You who dwell in the shelter
- Words of Assurance
- Time for our children and youth
- Praise song – BOP 625 Seek ye first

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:6-19
- Sermon: True riches
- Prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 675 Precious Lord, take my hand

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

. Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, September 25th. Through this worship, God may restore our connection with him, so we may experience truth in him.

. Next Sunday, October 2nd is the World Communion. Sunday. We will have the Communion at the Lord's Table. Please join this table of fellowship with our Lord.

. 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.

. Community Café will have soft opening on October 5th from 10am to 2pm. It is open to United and Presbyterian church members.

. Next Session meeting is on October 1st at 9 o'clock in the morning. Please remember and pray for us.

. Prayer is unseen, yet powerful. If you have prayer needs, please let us know.

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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

Here God speaks to us words of challenge and comfort.

Here Jesus stands among us, calling us to acts of mercy.

Even now, the Holy Spirit is moving in our midst,

filling us with hope and inspiring us to faithfulness.

Let us worship God, ever Three and ever One.

Let us praise God's holy name together!

Praise song – BOP 57 You who dwell in the shelter

<u>Vs. 1</u> You who dwell in the shelter of our God, Who abide in this shadow for life, say to the Lord, "My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust!"	Vs. 2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear: under God's wings your refuge, God's faithfulness your shield.
<u>Vs. 3</u> You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day; though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come.	Vs. 4 For to God's angels is given a command to guard you in all of your ways, upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone
<u>Chorus</u> And I will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and holy you in the palm of my hand.	

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Creating God, beauty and harmony mark your creation. As the seasons change, we see you are still at work in the world, transforming hearts and situations. We praise you for all you do to repair injustice, to bring peace to places of war, working for goodness to prevail in all nations. You offer us new possibilities day by day, and so we place our trust in your redeeming power. Renew our energy for mission and open our eyes to new opportunities to reach out in Jesus' name. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, make us participants in your work, bringing justice and joy into the world you love.

Compassionate God, you open your heart to those in need, and to your aching creation. We confess that we often turn away so that we do not have to see pain, suffering or injustice, right before our eyes. We don't like to feel uncomfortable or pressed into service. Forgive us, and give us courage to love others as you love us and reach out with the care we have witnessed in Jesus.

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 prophet Micah declared that God requires of us three things: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God. To all who repent, who act for justice and seek to serve God and neighbour in kindness, God offers forgiveness and peace.

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)

God of love and grace, thank you for bringing us here in your presence. Thank you for this time of prayer for our next generation. Pour your presence upon them. Let them be overwhelmed by your love. Fill their hearts with your glory. Provide our children and youth good opportunities so they may understand and accept your great love for each of them. Until then, let us have patience and faithfully pray for them. Let them have you all through their lives. We trust your goodness, your timing and your guidance. Use them for you. 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:

Give us your Spirit of wisdom, O God, so that we may hear your Word speaking through the Scriptures with ears that understand and hearts moved to love. Amen.

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

6 Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; 7 for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; 8 but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. 9 But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. 11 But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you 14 to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. 16 It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. 17 As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, 19 thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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

SERMON: True riches

Today's sermon title is **“True riches.”**

Are you rich?

There is an interesting article about the signs that you are rich.

- 1) You can save money
- 2) You can live comfortably spending less than you earn
- 3) You will eventually be able to pay for the things you really want
- 4) You are going to be able to afford to retire as planned
- 5) You are not motivated purely by money
- 6) You view money as an ally not enemy – you have a good relationship with money
- 7) You aren't stuck – for many people, money spells freedom. Do you have that freedom?

So, how are you doing?

Rich is a very subjective concept. One of my boys received \$5 from his friend on his birthday and he said, "Now, I am rich." Ultimately, rich can be as subjective as happiness. It is different for everyone.

Today's passage is talking about the concept of **true riches**.

Paul says, v6, "**A devout life does bring wealth, but it's the rich simplicity of being yourself before God. Since we entered the world penniless and will leave it penniless, if we have bread on the table and shoes on our feet, that's enough.**" (MSG)

This is today's conclusion. True rich is simply being yourself before God. This can be earned by godliness. NLT writes, "**true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth.**" (NLT)

Very straightforward, but there was a misinterpretation. There was a **false teaching** saying that "**religion is a way to make a fast buck.**" (V5, MSG) Godliness is a means of gain. Practice of their faith is the way to financial success.

1 Timothy 4:8 says, "godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."

Godliness can be rewarding, but not in the materialistic way.

This promise for the Present life and the Life to Come might cause misunderstanding the concept of true riches. Present life could be understood the current comfortable life. And the life to come is heaven.

But, when thinking about the true meaning of this promise, we can come up with the word, contentment. The key word in the concept of true riches is not abundance or prosperity, but contentment.

Last week, we talked about money which cannot secure our lives. The crooked manager trusted money, and he was smart in his usage of money, but his life was not secured with his trust on money.

V10, "for the LOVE OF MONEY is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains."

The Bible does not say MONEY is a root of all kinds of evil, but **the LOVE OF MONEY is a root of all kinds of evil.**

Let us look into our hearts or our past.

What do we love? What have we loved the most?

If there was the time we loved the money the most, what was our emotion, our experience, our relationship with our loved ones, with the world? What was the driving force of our lives at that time?

MSG states, **“Lust for money brings trouble and nothing but trouble. Going down that path, some lose their footing in the faith completely and live to regret it bitterly ever after.”**

What we love changes the purpose of our lives. What we love changes the focus of our daily lives. So, Paul urges Timothy, v11, **“But as for you, man of God, shun all this.”** The word **SHUN** could be translated to more active verb **FLEE**. Therefore, Paul is saying to Timothy, **“Flee the wrong, and pursue the right.”**

And this Flee and Pursue image in V12 is **“Fight the good fight of the faith.”**
It is the fight to run away from the love of money.

The opposite is the love of God who gives life to all things. At the end of today’s passage, Paul says, v19, **“storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.”**

Storing up treasure is important. Building a good foundation for the future is important. But, what is the most important in this?

Take hold of the life that really is life! Cause and effect. Means and consequence.

This New Living Translation from v17-19.

“17 Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. 19 By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.”

Do you remember the chief end of human being?

It is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.

Have this in mind and listen to this.

God prepares good things for us. When we receive the gifts from God, we are happy. When we are happy, God’s heart is filled with joy and happiness.

This is the chief end of us. This is the true life.

Last Sunday was John’s birthday. We went to Chuck E Cheese after church. This is an arcade gaming place for children. John was EXTREMELY happy and he was not able to control his happiness and excitement. When my wife and saw him, being that happy, that joy cannot be expressed in words. We were extremely joyful looking at John being so happy.

Now, think about God again. He prepares all the good gifts for us. When we received them, if we enjoy them with extreme happiness, then when God looks at us and his heart is overflowing with extremely excessive happiness. This cannot be described.

Now, **v17, Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.** God is providing our needs and God is giving us satisfaction and happiness and enjoyment.

How do we get things we need? By working, we earn our living. In the process, we receive countless help. Other people's generosity and good works of others, as well as ours.

18 Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others.

Through the right usage of money, we are connecting God and the needy people. We are joining God's good works. This is outcome of the right usage of money.

19 By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life."

True life. Real life.

Through our children's happiness, our hearts are filled with joy and happiness. Through other's enjoyment, we are storing up our treasure in heaven. By this, we are making God extremely happy and pleasant.

By our good works and generosity, we are joining God's good work providing the need of others for their enjoyment of God.

Do you see this connection? The love for money is a root of all kinds of evil. But, when we use the money in the right way, in God's way, it becomes the medium of happiness of people and God, and us.

Zephaniah 3:17, The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. (NRSV)

God is overwhelmed by the joy of our victory. By our good works, by our generosity, God rejoices over us, God sings because of us, God celebrates our victory more than we celebrate our own victory. **God is happier than us when we achieve victory in our good fight of faith.**

Flee from the wrong. Flee from the love of anything that is not God.

And **pursue the right.** Do good works and be generous.

And remember what God prepared for us and let us enjoy God. When we are grateful and happy and when we rejoice over what God has given us, God is overwhelmed by the joy over us.

This is glorifying God and enjoying God.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Prayer for the people of God

Father God, thank you for today's message. Thank you for providing all our needs. This is the Presbyterian Sharing Sunday. By your great plan, we happen to talk about our good works and

our generosity through our money. Help us flee from the love of money and fill our hearts with the love for you. Help us use our money and our power in your ways, so we join in your works providing God's help to the people in need. This is one great way of glorifying God and enjoy God. Heavenly Father, we long to live our life to the maximum. Teach your ways, give us wisdom to accept and give us courage to live out. Be praised and be glorified through our lives. Enjoy our lives as we enjoy you.

This is Presbyterian Sharing Sunday. Thank you for our generosity for your works. We have been helping out your works through our giving. Now, we know more about the true riches and true meaning of money, help us use our money more wisely and more bravely. Help us follow your guidance. And bless our church as Presbyterian Church in Canada. As we carry out the missions you entrusted to us, help us in discernment and help us stand before you with honesty and with humility. Give us clean hands, so you can use us for anything we want. We are here for your glory.

We remember our congregation. Thank you for your protection and guidance in our daily lives. As we journey with you, help us stay connected with you all the time.

We pray for those who are in need of medical support. Physical pain is very difficult. Gracious Father God, can you heal them? Can you make them free from their pains? Can you heal them? Lord, place your hands upon them at this moment, and heal them. Give strength to them. Give peace in their hearts.

Also, Lord, we remember those who are having difficult situations in their lives. In all circumstances, you are the Lord, you are the only King. We trust in your goodness, good will for us. So, Lord, although it is easy to blame for ourselves for the things happening, help us stop blaming us. It's sad that things are happening, we have hard time understanding why they are happening, but help us stop blaming ourselves or blaming others. Help us humbly seek your help and guidance in honesty and accepting hearts. This is wisdom and courage in you. Help us.

Also, we pray for our church ministries. Through the Martha's Table and Community Café, we are engaging with the community. Help others see your goodness and love through our ministries. Also, be with our Bible study. Through the time desiring you, fill our hearts with righteousness and wisdom and courage, so we live our lives for you.

With your great mercy and power and wisdom, watch over the world. Like a children song, He's got the whole world, we imagining your hands holding our earth. Be with the people who are suffering over injustice around the world. And help us protect our environment, so we can become good steward for your creation. You entrusted us this world. Guide us, hold our hands, so we can work with you for your glory and for your love.

Let our lives become the worship for 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. Prophets and parables remind us again and again to share our wealth with those living on the margins. Your contributions to the life and mission of this congregation and to the Presbyterian Church in Canada help change the world by bringing God's love and goodness to those standing outside the gate. Through Presbyterians Sharing, your gifts will have worldwide impact. Let us bless God with our offering. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Loving God, we bring you our gifts, grateful that we have something to share, and glad to be part of a network of mission and mercy which circles the earth. Bless the ministries supported by Presbyterians Sharing as well as the mission and ministries of our congregation. Use our gifts to multiply their impact in the world you love through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey BOP 675 Precious Lord, take my hand

<u>Vs. 1</u> Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light, take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.	<u>Vs. 2</u> When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near; when my life is almost gone, hear my cry, hear my call; hold my hand lest I fall: take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
<u>Vs. 3</u> When the darkness appears and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone, at the river I guide my feet, hold my hand: take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.	

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. True riches is not about how much money we have. True riches is how we are content and satisfied in our King and Lord Jesus Christ. Live truly. Use our everyday for God and fill your everyday with God.

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.