

Worship on October 2, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)
(Welcoming Elder: Anne Neuman)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 78 This is the day
- Words of Assurance
- Time for our children and youth
- Praise song – BOP 20 The Steadfast love of the Lord

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Luke 17:5-10
- Sermon: Faith the size of a mustard seed
- The Communion

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, October 2nd. This is World Communion Sunday. We want to celebrate the Lord's Communion together as the big body of church. Let us unite our hearts and build the body of Christ together.

. During today's worship, we will have the Communion at the Lord's Table. Please join this table of the fellowship with our Lord.

. Bible Study (The 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.

. Wednesday Community Café will have soft opening on October 12th from 10am to 2pm. It is open to United and Presbyterian church members.

. Martha's Table is now open on Thursdays at 11:30 am for lunch. We would be very grateful for the donation of baked goods of cookies or squares.

. Prayer is unseen, yet powerful. If you have prayer needs, please let us know. Soong at revsoonghuh@hotmail.com

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

We come as guests invited to a table;

We come to celebrate with friends and neighbours.

Jesus Christ, our Friend and Saviour, invites us to gather:

We gather with his friends around the world.

Come and worship with hearts full of God's praise and promise.

We worship God in gladness, for God's faithfulness endures forever.

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

Gracious and Generous God, you spread a banquet table and make room for all to come:
friend and foe, healed and sick, hopeful and hopeless.

You feed our desires with goodness and fill our longing with steadfast love. We worship you
with grateful praise, together with all your people, here and everywhere, who break bread at your
table and who share the cup. We celebrate our life together in Christ and offer our love and
loyalty to you, O God, Source of all goodness, through Jesus Christ, who shares our flesh, and
your Holy Spirit who prays within us.

God of mercy and mystery, When you invite us to your table, you ask us to come with clean
hands and open hearts. You ask us to come in peace, seeking reconciliation with you and with
each other. In this silence, we hand over to you the broken relationships, disagreements and
disappointments that keep us from living in your peace. Free us from the burdens we carry
which we share in this silence, so that we may be a source of peace in this troubled world:

(Let us take a moment of silence before the 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 and believe this good news of the gospel! Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone, new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven. Have the courage to forgive one another, and be at peace – with God, with your neighbor and with yourself.

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

Gracious and loving Father God, we thank you for this time of prayer for our precious children and youth. Please remember them at this time. Place your loving hands upon them, open their hearts. Capture their hearts. May they know your love. Open their hearts and eyes and minds, so they may come to you with their whole selves. Protect them in their daily lives, and provide them what they need. Give wisdom and courage in the hearts. You are the Lord and you are the King. Be worshiped through them and be glorified through their lives. 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:

God of Hope, amid all the concerns in the world around us, we turn to your Word. Send your Holy Spirit to still our thoughts and speak your wisdom to us. Fill us with the humble confidence we meet in Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 17:5-10

5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" 6 The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. 7 "Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? 8 Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? 9 Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? 10 So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

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

SERMON: Faith the size of a mustard seed

Today's sermon title is **"Faith the size of a mustard seed."**

The disciples were challenged. Jesus just told them to forgive each other seven times a day if they repent. This means, if they repent, forgive again and again, and again and again. It was extremely difficult for the disciples. So, they asked Jesus **v5 "Increase our faith!"**

Increasing faith. HMM... Have you thought of the size of our faith in God?
If so, how big or how small is your faith?

OR what is faith? It is what we believe. If we believe, it is a question of yes or no. Isn't it?
I kind of believe. I believe 75% . I believe 50%.
Does it sound right? For some, it could make sense. For the other, it does not make sense at all.
So, it's not the matter of the size of faith we have.

The disciples thought they would need more faith to forgive each other again and again.
Is it really faith? Couldn't it be understood as the courage to forgive?
Or I can't give up my own self. Isn't it asking for help to Jesus so that they can follow his ways with all their hearts?

In this sense, faith is shifting from my thoughts to God's thoughts. Forgiveness is not what I want. That is not my idea, but God's. Faith is willing to accept it. Or faith is admitting the values of God, and giving up my values.

To their cry of increasing their faith, Jesus answered: **v6 "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."**

Jesus is speaking about the power of faith, even though it is small **as a mustard seed**. (picture) If we have faith in God, miracle happens.

Jesus is changing our question **from "How much faith is enough?" to "What is faith for?"**

In our passage, there are two stories. **One mustard seed, two master and slave.**

From the mustard seed story, Jesus is teaching us that we already have enough faith.
Imagine the tone of Jesus speaking in v6 to us.

Is he punitive? Why can't you understand? Don't you have that little faith?

"If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

Usually, because of our weakness, we tend to have guilty feeling when Jesus is revealing our shortcoming. But, Jesus knows us. He already knows our weaknesses.

Jesus is not scolding our weak faith, but he is encouraging us pouring out his love upon us.

Don't worry about your weakness. Even this much of small faith is enough!

"If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

If we can hear Jesus speaking with the voice of love, we are able to learn that the apostles already have enough faith to do whatever is required of them.

Also, the faith they had is not about them, it was the faith trusting the power of God. So, the source of the miracle, the power to perform miracle is not their own, but it was from Jesus. The faith is not about us, but it's about Jesus.

At the end of the v6, Jesus says, **"It would obey you."**

The tree obeys the disciples? Why? Because of their faith in Jesus Christ, the Maker of the whole universe. The subject of faith is not us, but Jesus.

From the second part of our passage, there are master and slave. It is not a comforting story.

In our thoughts, we would like to give some break to the slave who worked hard out in the field. However, we do not congratulate the completion of their works that we commanded them to do. Slave obeys master. We are not focusing on the right or wrong of having a slave, but we are focusing on the nature of the relationship. Jesus describes a relationship between master and servant. It is marked with mutual accountability and expectation. The master expects the servants to perform their duties, and the servants, in turn, expect that when their work is done, they will receive nourishment and rest and protection.

Once we understand faith in this way, then this Master-slave relationship comes to our life. This is the way of our life. Those who serve God do so with a sense of duty and delight, living a life according to God's commandments.

Faith has the power from God. We have that power from God. God obeys and we follow.

Psalm 50:15, "Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

God is telling us that "call on me when trouble comes to your life. Cry out to me, I will listen and I will help. Pray to me, I will answer."

This is the confidence of God. God knows that he can help. He can deliver. Because God is power and he is above all things, he is confidently telling us. Talk to me. I will turn my ears to you, I will give you power, I will deliver you from your trouble.

Just as a slave's duty is to obey the master, so a disciple's duty is to forgive which is an act that requires faith. If we cry to God, God answers.

With faith, we can exercise the power of God. Christian faith in God is hopeful, trusting, strong even in our weakness, surprising and cheerfully active. Not because of the believer, but because of the One we believe in. This is indeed the good news we have.

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.

Jesus invites us to this table and now we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and this wine, ordinary things of the world. In these, Jesus has promised to be present; Through these Christ can make us whole.

Come all of you this is the joyful feast of the people of God.

As Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth, let us also bless God with great thanksgiving.

*(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: Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three, You are source of all that exists.

You are beyond the galaxies, deeper than the oceans; You pour down rain and bring forth the fruit of the earth. You carry us through deep waters and hold us in the darkest night. So with all your creatures, great and small, with angels and archangels, with saints and servants in every generation **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: Holy is your Son Jesus, O God, Walking this earth, feeding the hungry, calling the lost, noticing the forgotten, healing those who reached out, teaching those who sought wisdom, he revealed your kingdom in our midst. Today we thank you for all Jesus shared with us to show us that you are always with us in times of plenty and times of pain. And so **we proclaim the mystery of faith:**

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

L: Holy Spirit, come now and settle on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

May they become for us Christ's body and life blood, healing, forgiving and making us whole. So may we become Christ's body, the Church, loving and caring throughout the whole world until that day when all creation feasts with you in the fullness of your mercy and peace.

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:

Mighty God, you are our God. Thank you. When we cry out to you, you listen to us. When we are trouble, you want us to call you, so we know that you are our help. Thank you Lord for your love for us. Thank you Jesus for opening the way to the Father God directly. Our hope is not on our small faith, but Big God we believe. Come and live among us with your presence. Hold our hands and walk and lead our lives.

Loving God, Christ our Lord, Holy Spirit, you have nourished us, body and soul, in this meal. We have heard your love, so send us out to speak it. We have seen your love, so send us out to show it. We have been fed by your love, so send us out to share it. And let all things be done for your glory.

We remember the Nation Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This is the day we honour First Nations, Inuit and Metis Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. There was pain. There was brokenness. There was frustration. There was sadness. There was anger. By having one day of day-off does not make any change. But, we can remember and remind ourselves with the need of repentance of our past sins. Gracious Father God, remember all the First Nations right now. Pour out your love upon them. Restore their families. Let the generations reconnect and build strong and healthy community again. Holy Spirit, give them the desire to learn, so they can protect themselves. Raise them up.

And we remember our country. Thank you for the brave action of recognition of their past mistakes. Give wisdom and courage, so we can do right things with common sense, and with the love of God. Be with all the leaders and lead them with your mighty power. Be in their hearts.

We are praying for our congregation. Thank you for washing us with your precious blood. Thank you for feeding us with your body and blood. You are the Head of our church and you are the Master of our lives. Meet our needs when we call out to you in our personal time with you. Encourage us come to you and lay down our hearts in honesty and in humility. Lead us into your presence every day of our lives.

Be worshipped and be glorified through our worship and through our lives. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. Around this table we celebrate God's generosity to us in Christ and in creation. We present our offering in gratitude for all God has given. Give to God with joyful praise. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

God, you are the giver of every good and perfect gift. Our gifts may not be perfect, but bless them with your Holy Spirit to spread your goodness in the world, for the sake of Christ, our living Lord. 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. Do you faith? It might be small, but God says, it is enough. It is not you leading your life, but me. Let us give our life to God, so he can lead us and guide us to the best possible life. God is our Master.

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.