

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

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 457 Now thank we all our God
- Words of Assurance
- Time for our children and youth
- Praise song – BOP 802 For the fruits of all creation

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-14
- Sermon: The core of the good news
- The Prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 807 We plough the fields and scatter

We Serve

- Benediction

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

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

We will worship the LORD with gladness and come into God's presence with song.

Know that it is the LORD God who made us, and we are God's people.

We will enter God's gates with praise and thanksgiving.

Let us give thanks to God this day and bless God's holy name.

Praise song – BOP 457 Now thank we all our God

<u>Vs. 1</u> Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom God's world rejoices, who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.	<u>Vs. 2</u> Oh may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, and keep us all with grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills in this world and the next.	<u>Vs. 3</u> All praise and thanks to God who reigns in highest heaven, the Father and the Son and Spirit now be given, the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore, for thus it was, is now and shall be evermore.
--	--	---

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Gracious and Loving God, we gather in this season of thanksgiving, struck by the colours of the leaves, the last warm breezes, birds flying south in formation. Such beauty speaks to us of your goodness, and your desire to provide what each of your creatures needs. As we gather, renew our sense of gratitude for every good gift you offer us. Especially we praise you for the gift of Christ Jesus who teaches us how to walk in the world you love and offers us grace and compassion to share with those we meet. Receive our love and gratitude in his name, and by your Spirit, empower us to live gratefully each and every day.

Living and loving God, we acknowledge we enjoy life with an abundance many nations cannot imagine. Yet we confess, we do not always recognize the blessings we share. We worry about our futures, and ignore the present needs of those around us. Forgive us our fears and narrow vision and our failure to care for creation as you intended.

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 mercy of our God is from everlasting to everlasting. Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel: In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven and set free to begin again. At this time of Thanksgiving, let us give special thanks for God's most generous love.

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

Thank you Lord for your goodness shown in our lives. Thank you for this time of gathering our hearts for our next generation. We pray for our precious children and youth. Gracious Father God, pour upon your blessings upon them. Let them know you and let them give their whole hearts and lives to you. Let them have the sure foundation. Let them build their lives on you, the Solid Rock! Every day, we they wake up in the morning, fill their hearts with new hope and energy. Teach them your truth, teach them your way of living, so they experience the fullness only you can provide. Give them wisdom and courage. Make them peacemakers in their every day lives. Be glorified and be worshipped through their lives. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: BOP 802 For the fruits of all creation

<u>Vs. 1</u> For the fruits of all creation, thanks be to God For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God For the ploughing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while	<u>Vs. 2</u> In the just reward of labour, God's will is done; In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done;	<u>Vs. 3</u> For the harvest of the Spirit, thanks be to God; For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God; For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still
--	---	--

we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.	In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.	confound us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God
---	--	--

Prayer for Illumination:

Living God, you feed us not only with bread from the harvest but with your Word, which stands by us in every circumstance. Nourish us with your hope, and comfort us with your presence, as we listen for your voice speaking in the Scriptures today. Amen.

Scripture: 2 King 5:1-14

1 Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. 2 Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. 3 She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." 4 So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. 5 And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. 6 He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." 7 When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me." 8 But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." 9 So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. 10 Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." 11 But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. 13 But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" 14 So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

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

SERMON: The core of the good news

Today's sermon title is **"The core of the good news."**

Happy Thanksgiving! I hope and pray that your lives are filled with God's guidance and abundant blessings. Let us sharing greetings one more time, "Happy Thanksgiving!"

When do we thank? When something good happens. When we receive something.

When situation becomes better. When help is offered. When someone says good thing.

The core of gratitude is change.

Worse to better. Nothing to gift. Discomfort to encouragement. Depressed to supported.

Thanksgiving Day is a day we remember God for changing our final destiny.

1 Peter 2:10, “Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people. Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the light of God.
Once our destiny is death, but now our future is life, eternal life.

So, we are thankful when something is changed toward God’s characters.

In Naaman’s case, his leprosy becomes clean. In this change, we are able to find the core of the gratitude and the core of the good news.

V2-3, “2 Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman’s wife. 3 She said to her mistress, “If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.”

This servant girl knew God’s power. She told Naaman’s wife the good news.

Romans 10:17, “So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.”

I often pray to God to open our ears. This is the reason.

There are good news proclaimed all around, but if our ears are closed, then we cannot listen to them. The proclaimed good news cannot be reached to our hearts.

Naaman, despite the difference of the social status, was able to listen to the servant girl. This might be understood that he was a good person, humble in heart and caring for the lowly. Possible. But, in my opinion, it’s more likely his desperation. He was sick and he wanted to be healed. To his heart, in total desperation, it could be just grasping the straws.

Remember who Naaman was? He was a great man, he was in favour of his master. He was a mighty warrior. I believe that because of his status, he was rich and he was able to try out all kinds of treatments for his disease. He did this and that, but everything didn’t work out. So, he suffered from his disease. At that time, a servant girl said something about the possibility of cure. He could not help himself inclining to that possibility. Good news has power to change. First, the proclaimed good news enter through the ears, and then it reaches to the heart. Then, it causes action, so this changes the person’s life. In what kind manner the good news proclaimed is important, but not as much as what it is.

WHY?

Because the power is not in the person who speaks it, but the power is in the good news itself because it is the word of God.

Naaman finally got to the house of the prophet Elisha. This was his expectation: **V11, “I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy!”**

Yeah. When we think about healing, we imagine something like this. But, what happened? Did Elisha come out?

NO. **V10, “Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.”**

Remember how he was able to come to Elisha? He went to the king. The king had to write a letter to the king of Israel. He prepared a lot of gifts, **v6, “taking with him 10 talents of silver, 6000 shekels of gold, and 10 sets of garments.”** And with his great expectation.

But, what? Elisha didn't come out?! But only sent his messenger out and told me what to do? HOW DARE YOU!!!

He thought his polite hospitality was completely neglected.

Imagine that we want something very desperately. So, we brought big amount of offering to God. And we pray to God sincerely. We attend church faithfully. We watch sermon videos on YouTube all day long. We listen to hymns when we drive. We feel like we are doing the best of best for God. We are offering all we can give to God. But, one week, two weeks, one month, two months passed. No answer from God. Then, how would we feel about God?

“Hello~~ ARE YOU THERE? Are you able to see what I am doing here, now and so far? Can you see what I am bringing to you? Do you want to ask my church how much money I offered you?”

Some exaggerations, but can you relate to this emotion of disappointment with God?

“I thought you'd like it.”

We prepared something very carefully for someone, but they don't like it. It just doesn't click to that person. For example, in the backyard, I have a firepit. I made a really really nice fire few days ago. Smell of the fire, temperature of the fire and the cold air, the sound of surroundings. Everything was totally perfect. I just loved it. That is the best moment of my life.

If I told my wife to come out in expectation her to love it too, it's not gonna happen. I know she doesn't like it. My effort, my carefully prepared gifts are for me, not for other person.

Does Elisha need gold? Ten sets of garments? 6000 shekels of gold?
OR Does God want them?

Does God want our devotion out of desire for God to look down upon us with answer for the gifts we are bringing to him? That's our desire. That's our perspective! That is not God wants from us. That's our selfishness.

To that selfishly and carefully prepared gifts, God does not answer. Elisha does not come out. He does not even give a glance.

Crystal clear. Straightforward. So honest.
Let us be honest with God.

To that angry Naaman, who was about to go home without bathing in the river of Jordan, his servant approached. I was very grateful that the servant approached Naaman.

This shows Naaman's character. He listened to the young and little servant girl. And the servant who was with him was able to approach him when he was experiencing a strong emotion, anger. When someone is angry, we don't want to talk to them. We want to wait until they cool down. But, Naaman was a kind of person who listened.

V13, But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

Naaman listened and went to Jordan, immersed himself seven times. He obeyed the word of the man of God. When he obeyed, **v14, his flesh was restored like a flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.**

Naaman's sorrow is finally changed to joy.
God turned his sorrow into joy.

Good news proclaimed. Ears caught it and the good news went in. The good news reached to the heart. The person responded with action. And change happened.

On this Thanksgiving Day, what kind of thankful changes you can think about?

There is a hymn, Count your blessings. **"Count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your blessings; see what God hath done."**

Today, take some time with God and count your blessings and write them down. Let them sink down in your hearts, then give sincere thanks to our God.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Prayer for the people of God

Thank you God. We remember what you have done in our lives and what you are doing right now and we thank you in advance for what you will do in and through our lives.

Gracious Father God, you are faithful, kind, patient, loving, gracious, merciful, powerful, humorous, great and awesome God. We want to experience you personally. We want to make a sincere confession that you are great. Draw our hearts near to your heart. Come into our hearts and live among us, so we are able to experience you throughout our daily lives and through the relationships we have. Help us take time with you and establish the intimacy with you.

You are personal God and you want individual relationship from each of us. Lord, help us come to you with honesty and humility.

And thank you Lord for loving us and accepting us just the way we are. Thank you for knowing us, our good times and challenging times and our weaknesses.

Heavenly God, you are holding the whole earth in your hands. Even though we don't understand, even though we don't like what's happening in some places, you know all the things happening in all the places. Give us faith relying upon you with our whole hearts.

We pray for Iran. Very violent things are happening. It looks hopeless and very desperate. What is your plan for Iran and their people? Gracious Father God, we remember your goodness. Is it the beginning of the change now? Help us remember and pray for Iran and Lord, change the hearts of the leaders and capture their hearts and lead them in your ways. Pour out your grace and love upon the country and the people all around the world and let them know you. Shine your light upon them.

There are people who are experiencing loss and fear from the drought, flood, war, and Corona virus. We kneel down before you for your protection and guidance. We come before you with repentance. Lord, have mercy upon us. We did wrong to you and to others. Give us clean hearts. Give us clean hands. Remove our selfishness, pride, violence, ignorance. Change our hearts. Restore your image in us. Let God given image be activate in our daily lives.

We as your church come to you in worship at this time. Through this worship, Lord, let your glory come into each individual's heart. Let your broken heart be experienced in our hearts. Help us see our lives and surroundings with your eyes.

We pray for our church. We are the people called by you and gathered by your grace alone. Look upon each member and adherent of our church. Provide our needs and protect us safely. Heal our sickness and free us from any types of enslavement. Free us and help us glorify you and enjoy you.

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

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. On this Thanksgiving Sunday, we celebrate the gifts of God's good earth which sustain us, as well as the labour of those who grow, harvest and prepare these gifts so we can thrive. Today let us share our gifts for the ministry of the Lord God so the ministry and mission of Christ's church can thrive. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Gracious and generous God, we offer our gifts in gratitude for all we receive from your hand. Bless and multiply them, just as Jesus multiplied a few loaves and fishes to bless others. Use them so others can taste your love in our community and in your world, through the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song for the Journey BOP 807 We plough the fields and scatter

<u>Vs. 1</u>	<u>Vs. 2</u>	<u>Vs. 3</u>
We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand: you send the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain, the	You only are the Maker of all things near and far; you paint the wayside flower, you light the evening star; the winds and waves obey you; by you the birds are fed; much more	We thank you, our provider, for all things bright and good, the seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food. No gifts have we to offer for all your love imparts, but that

breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.	to us, your children, you give our daily bread.	which you most welcome: our humble, thankful hearts.
<u>Refrain</u> All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above; we thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord for all your love		

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. Let us shine the light of the Lord. Let us go out and share the gifts we have received from God. God changed us. God will make changes in our lives and surrounding through us. Let us give ourselves to God. Let us listen closely to 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.