

Worship on October 16, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)
(Welcoming Elder: Anne Neuman)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 685 How firm a foundation
- Words of Assurance
- Time for our children and youth
- Praise song – BOP 497 Word of God, across the ages

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
- Sermon: Firm Foundation
- 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

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

God promises us justice,

and teaches us persistence.

God promises us compassion,

and teaches us not to lose heart.

God promises to be with us

and teaches us to tend to each other.

So let us worship our God of comfort and challenge,

We will offer prayers and praise to our God of hope and healing.

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	Vs. 4

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	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

Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit, you breathe life into all things and nourish your whole creation. You are a rock and refuge for your people, for you are trustworthy in all things. Your desire for peace with justice can never be defeated. You alone can bring life out of death, and restore wholeness to broken lives, so we praise you and rejoice in the hope you offer. For your love is the power at work in every situation, seeking goodness and revealing truth, a love that will never let us go. In our time of worship, we offer you our love and loyalty through Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

God of our hopes and our hearts, You provide the gift of faith but we lose heart quickly. Troubles weaken our trust and disappointments eat away at our commitment. Forgive us and create in us clean hearts and in your love, give us peace and perseverance.

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, Remember the promise apostle Paul declares: What will separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship? Distress? Peril or sword? No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through the God who loves us. Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Let us rejoice together no matter what is happening around us, no matter what we have done. God's deep love will never let us go.

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

God thank you for calling us in your presence gathering our hearts for our next generation. We are praying for our children and youth. Gracious Father God, look upon them. Fill their hearts with the truth. Open their hearts and teach them your love and grace. Give them wisdom to know

who they are and who you are. With your wisdom, help them make righteous choices and give them courage, so that they are able to live out their faith. Help them find out the purpose of their life and rely upon you with their whole hearts. You are the truth, you are the way and you are the life. Let them cherish your name and sincerely give their hearts to you. Bless them and guide them to you. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: BOP 497 Word of God, across the ages

<u>Vs. 1</u> Word of God, across the ages comes your message to our life, source of hope, forever present in our toil and fears and strife, constant witness to God's mercy, still our grace, whate'er befall, guide unfailing, strength eternal, offered freely to us all.	<u>Vs. 2</u> Story of our wondrous journey from the shadows of the night, garnered truth of sage and prophet, guiding forward into light, words and deeds of Christ our teacher, pointing to the life and way, still appealing, still inspiring, in the struggles of today.	<u>Vs. 3</u> In the tongues of all the peoples may the message bless and heal, as devout and patient scholars more and more its depths reveal. Bless, O God, to wise and simple, all your truth of ageless worth, till all lands receive the witness and your knowledge fills the earth
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Prayer for Illumination:

Inspiring God, by your Spirit, open our minds and hearts to receive your Word for today, whether it challenges or comforts us, so that we may live more faithfully as we follow Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, 15 and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. 4:1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: 2 proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. 5 As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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

SERMON: The core of the good news

Today's sermon title is **"Firm Foundation."**

Foundation. Why do we need a foundation? We want to stand without falling. We want stability. Earthquake has a strong impact because it shakes the foundation. I don't know if you experienced earthquakes, I don't think I can live where there are frequent earthquakes. We do not notice the importance of the foundation until something goes wrong with the foundation, like an earthquake, or something goes wrong with our lives.

2 Timothy 3:16, “All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”

One of the most loved Bible verses. This defends the authority of the Bible, the source of our faith. We believe **this one book**, Bible. And this Bible is God-breathed. God inspired the authors of the Bible and God speaks to us through them.

So, the BIG GOD teaches us what to do and how to live our lives with truth. That is the Bible. It's like the manual of our life. That is our life's foundation.

However, when we read the second part of the verse, it highlights the possibilities of wrongdoings. **“[Scripture] is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”**

Why? Paul emphasizes the possibilities of falling down. That is because the foundation is too important. If something goes wrong with the foundation, then our lives will collapse. Our foundation of life is the sound doctrine, the right Christian teaching.

What we believe decides our life. What we believe decides what we do in our daily lives. Also, what we believe decides what kinds of teachings we will follow.

At the time of Apostle Paul, there are many false teachings. This is why Paul warns his disciple Timothy to be careful with the false teachings. **Heresy**. This is originated from **Greek word**

Haireomai – to choose. And in Chinese, it writes: 異端

This first letter means different and the other one, end.

This means, heresy seems very similar but at the end, it becomes different.

Therefore, watch out what you choose. If we choose heresy, which seems very very similar to the righteous teaching, then the end of it will be different.

This END means our salvation. Therefore, Paul's warning to have the right faith should be heard very carefully. This is choosing our foundation.

For example, v10, **10 Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions, and my suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. 12 Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 13 But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived.**

People chose comfort over the right teaching. The righteous living bothers the sin inside of human hearts. People do not want to make confrontation with our darkest sinful nature. In order to avoid the painful confrontation with our guilt, we neglect truth.

Paul was persecuted. Jesus Christ was crucified.

Pharisees, the religious leaders of Jesus' time. They observed the teaching from the Bible, Old Testaments. Jesus came and broke their traditions of how they kept the Laws.

Keep the Sabbath holy. They couldn't work on God's day. When someone they love was in trouble, they had to wait till next day.

Mark 3, “Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. 2 They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. 3 And he said to the man who had the withered hand, ‘Come forward.’ 4 Then

he said to them, ‘Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?’ But they were silent. 5 He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. 6 The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.”

Some people were considered to be unclean. Blind, withered hands, lame. Pharisees kept the distance from them. Where is love? God called each of them by name and they were connected in God. But, they were busy correcting each other and judging each other. They labelled people and treated them accordingly. **Their foundation was not love, but keeping the law became their god. In their hearts, God and his laws existed to satisfy their religious longings.**

In this background of that time, Timothy was able to learn faith from his family. Paul said this, **v14, but as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”**

Timothy was in good hands and Paul told him to continue the firm faith in God. It is to become the good role model of the one who suffers for the sake of living out the gospel and sharing its truth.

V1 in chapter 4, **“I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. V3 For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. V5 As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.”**

In Chapter 4, Paul’s intention becomes clear. This is my paraphrase of what Paul saying to Timothy: **“Timothy, you have firmly believed in the truth. You were guided with the righteous teaching to the salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. This is from the Scripture and from the tradition of your family of faith. With the truth you have in you, proclaim the message in any circumstances.**

Others will challenge you with false teachings. They will persecute you because of the truth you display through your life. Endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.”

Scripture, the Word of God, the Bible is our firm foundation. We need the firm foundation to endure the suffering.

On one side, we are protecting the truth by proclaiming the message in any circumstances whether the time is favourable or unfavourable. And on the other side, we have to endure the suffering coming from becoming the protectors of the gospel.

In conclusion of today’s passage, Paul says, v5, **“As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.”**

Carry out your ministry fully.

This is our calling to become the protectors of the message. This firm foundation of the scripture was given for us in order for us to carry out our ministry fully. The Bible is connecting us to God. The Bible is giving us wisdom of God. The Bible is providing us the power of God to endure our suffering. The Bible is supporting us and gives us the reason why we endure. It

reminds us to stay in the righteous way in truth. The Bible gives us the light of God shining to the world.

The phrase “inspired by God” literally means “God-breathed.” In the Genesis creation account, God breathes life into humankind. Also, God breathes life into his word. Like we breathe, we must know that the word of God breathes too. **It is not only inspired by God, but also inspiring the people of God.** It can breathe new life into us. It supports us. It guides us and it gives us strength to carry on our callings. Remember that we have the firm foundation of God in our hearts. It is **God-breathed Bible**. With the Bible, we are able to experience the firm support as we proclaim the good news and power of God when we experience the persecution as we shine God’s light to the world.

Let us have the word of God in our hearts. This is something what I like. If we learn something, then we forget, right? But, if we learn and put something in us, it will float around in us. I think it is the great love of God for us. When we put words of God in us, we forget them. But, they are in us somewhere floating around, and when the time comes we need the words, the right word comes up from our hearts at the moment when we need it the most. And we can remind ourselves with the promise of the word of God, in his love. In order to experience this, we need some input. Let us eat the word of God and rely on the truth.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Prayer for the people of God

Righteous and glorious Father God, thank you for giving us your word. This is our treasure. You reveal your heart through your words. Help us embrace it and read it and have it in our hearts. So, your truth lives in us. Your word is the lamp shining on the road we are walking. Your word is our firm foundation that makes us live our daily life with confidence and wisdom and courage. Let us put our life’s foundation on your word.

With sorrowful hearts, we come before your presence at this time. As we look around what’s happening in the world, we come to you with repentance and desperate plea. Gracious Father God, please look upon us, humanity. Please help us love, help, encourage, be generous, and be like you.

We remember War in Ukraine and Russia. Pure selfishness. Pure sadness and fear. With your mighty arms, embrace the weak and victims. Be with them with your love with the people who are trying to make it right. Also, empty the selfishness and greed and evil from the instigators.

Also, we remember Iran. Government oppress their people out of selfishness. The desire to have power blinded their eyes. Open their eyes and give them righteous hearts. Help them stop violence. They are taking children, helpless and powerless. Protect the people and provide them safety. Restore the country.

We remember Canada. There are too many violence, too many shootings here. Innisfil, Brampton, Toronto, we hear news of gun violence. People are dying. Let us stand up and start make changes from our lives, from our families, from our churches, and to our communities, and to our works, to our relationships, and to our neighbours. Help us shine your light. Help us display your goodness and your love. Help us overcome our selfish desires. Help us increase the positive experiences, so we can build the muscle of righteous living making changes in the world.

Watch over the people in our congregation. There are people suffering with physical illness. Call them by their names. Make them stand before you. With your healing power, heal them. There are people struggling with their relationships, emotions, and many different challenges in life. Help them humbly come to your presence and ask your power, your wisdom, your courage. We don't live with our own power and strength. We live by your power. We are able only because we put our life on you, the solid rock, our firm foundation. Jesus, hold our hand and walk with us. You, Lord, purchased your precious church with your blood. Help us have that in our hearts all the time.

It seems like we only come to your presence at this hour. One hour on Sunday mornings. Lord, through this experience, let your glory and presence remain in our lives all through our weekly life. 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. Like the widow at the judge's bench, God persists in asking for our response to needs we might think are beyond us. Trust that God will bless what we offer and do surprising things with us, for us and through us, through Christ, our Living Lord. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

God of the great and the small, we bring what we have to share, the fruit of our lives. Bless our gifts and our lives so that generosity and justice will join hands to surprise the world with your goodness in Jesus' name.

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. Let us shine the light of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us have our firm foundation, the Bible. It says what God wants. It says how we should live this God given life. God breathed into the nostril of the human shaped mud, then it became living being. That's how we have life. And God breathed his breath into his word. God's words has life and power to sustain our lives. Let us build our lives on the sold and firm foundation. Have God in your heart and live with him.

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.