

Worship on April 23, 2023 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)
(Welcoming Elder: Trevor Preston)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 357 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Time for our children and youth
- Praise song – BOP 358 There is a redeemer

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- First reading: Luke 24:13-35
- Second reading: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (refrain 3)
- Third reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41
- Sermon: NOW WHAT?
- Prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 425 We praise you, O God vs. 1) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 332 O Lord my God

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

We have come from many places, following different roads.

We come hungering for greater understanding.

We have come to hear the wisdom of Scripture.

We come seeking companions in the faith.

We have come to discover the One revealed in the breaking of the bread.

We come to grow as disciples of Christ.

Come, let us worship God, made known in Christ Jesus.

Praise song – BOP 357 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Loving God, we gather in your Son's name this day, united by your Spirit to your followers throughout all time and space. It is amazing to remember that the stories we hear about you today have transformed so many other lives for so many centuries. It is amazing to consider how lives not so very different from our own carried your love from one generation to another, from one church to another, from one part of the world to another. As we join together in worship, open

our eyes to new opportunities to express our love for you, and share your love in the lives we touch; for we are your people and we praise God in your holy name.

Week by week we open our lives before you, confessing how we sometimes lose track of you. We are driven and feel busy so we let other things come before you in our lives.

Changes make us upset and we don't know where to turn. Forgive us when we forget that you are with us day by day. Renew us in your love, we pray.

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

Friends in Christ, On the road to Emmaus, Jesus met two of his disciples who were discouraged and distracted by his death. Yet when he spoke God's word to them, their hearts burned within them. Hear God's word of forgiveness today. May the fire of God's love warm your hearts with God's promise of peace and new life.

May the peace of the Lord be with you. Let us take few moments to greet each other and share this joy of our Risen Lord.

Prayer for children and youth

Gracious and amazing God, thank you for calling us in your presence and giving us this opportunity to think and to pray for our next generation. Teach your love and grace to our precious children and youth. Open their hearts and eyes. Through every experience and circumstance they encounter, let them learn your presence and your providence. You are the God who prepares. You are the God who provides good gifts for your children. So, Lord, give them faith and let them accept your perfect plans for them. As they come to you and seek your presence, fill their hearts with the fullness of your presence. Let them plunge themselves into you. Gracious God, raise them and draw them close to you. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: BOP 358 There is a redeemer

Prayer for Illumination:

Living God, you speak to us in sacred story, through friendship and conversation, in bread broken and wine poured out. Send us your Holy Spirit as the Scriptures are read. May our hearts burn within us as we encounter your truth, through Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen

First reading: Luke 24:13-35;

Second reading: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (refrain 3)

Third reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

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

SERMON: NOW WHAT?!

Today's sermon title is **"NOW WHAT?!"**

When I put sermon title, I try to summarize the whole sermon in the title. So, when you recall the title, you might be able to remember some things from the message. Today's title is **NOW WHAT?!** When we read today's passage, we get the sense loss at first. Peter preached the gospel to the people. V37, **"Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."**

What is the meaning of Lord? It is someone who has power and authority over others. In this case, Jesus is the ruler with power and authority over the whole house of Israel.

And **what is the meaning of Messiah?** It means the one who is anointed. It is a deliverer, saviour, or redeemer. Someone who brings the whole house of Israel out of despair.

Basically, Peter is claiming the divinity of Jesus Christ.

Now the news that Jesus is risen was spread all over. Now people realized that Jesus Christ was the truly Lord and Messiah.

BUT, what have they done?! **"This Jesus whom YOU CRUCIDIED."** This Peter's sermon was not friendly. It is not inviting. It's accusatory for killing Jesus Christ the Lord and Messiah.

Uh-Oh They were shocked at this.

In the hearts of the people, they had guilt and shame. **"They were cut to the heart"** They embraced this shocking message with their hearts. They were pierced to the heart. They were overwhelmed with emotional grief, anguish, and suffering. They deeply regretted what they did and now, they were confessing their total despair before God.

How many were there? **V41, "So, those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about 3000 persons were added."** 3000 males. At that time, they only counted male grown-ups. This means, there must be much more than 3000 people. With women and children, there would be 4 times at least. Peter preached in front of 10,000 people and they humbled their hearts and came before the Lord repenting their sins. They received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Peter never intended pouring down the guilty feeling upon the crowd from the crucifixion of Jesus. With Peter's unkind and straightforward proclamation of the truth, Peter wanted them to realize their reality. This is who Jesus is and this is what we did and this is who we are – like the **red star on the map of the mall.** Peter is showing the WAY, Jesus Christ.

"What should we do?!" To the panicking people, Peter invites them to the way.

From v38 **"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."**

Peter is telling them all are called by Jesus, the Lord and the Messiah. This calling is for everybody. And this is the promise of the faithful God to all the people who were present there and their children and to the people far away in distance both physically or in heart. God does not neglect anybody. God's love covers all. So, if you feel like your sin is too much to come to God, your shame is too much for you that you are hesitating to come to the Lord, please don't.

Our faithful Father is almighty and all-knowing and loving and forgiving. Nothing is too difficult for our God.

V40, And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’

When I read it, I felt like, “Peter and the people had Q&A session. People had questions and Peter provided further explanations. So, having questions are good thing. There is nothing you cannot ask about faith. So, if anything rises from your hearts, ask them; talk about them openly.

After talking to them, Peter urged them. **“SAVE YOURSELVES FROM THIS CORRUPT GENERATION.”**

This call from Jesus is not merely personal level. This promise of God is neither merely personal level. Peter said GENERATION. This covers the whole people in his time. At the same time, because the truth is unchanging, this includes the whole history of humanity. This includes the past, this present, and the future generations. This message of Peter is aligned with Paul’s message in **Romans 12. “I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.”** This is perfectly aligned with Peter’s message.

It shows the call of God. Inviting them to be present themselves before God in repentance and making themselves acceptable. In other words, come before God by cleansing, in baptism. This is the call from God and the promise of God. In addition, **do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds.**

What this world and generation want and what God wants are different. This world is corrupt in the eyes of God. What people are chasing is not the truth of God, but it’s selfish desires of sinful nature of human being.

To this reality, what do we do! It goes back to the answer of Peter.

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

As we repeat this process, we are coming close to God. As we realize the reality of human nature, our personal realization expands to our family, to our neighbours, and to the whole world.

Have you heard of **Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification.**

Justification – we realize where we are. We realize that we are sinful beings and come to God. We are forgiven by the grace of God. By faith, we become righteous before God.

Sanctification – we are baptized. Our sins are washed away with water and we die with God in water and we rise with God with new life. We are restoring the image of God.

Glorification – we are becoming holy, more like God and join God’s glory. **1 Peter 1:13-16, Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’**

All people before the truth of God, we are lost. We are desperate. We are in despair. Why? Because we cannot save ourselves. Because we need to be saved from our sinful nature and the consequences of sin.

Peter declared this generation is corrupt. This is the same now. What do we do now? Do we just avoid the reality of this corruptness of the world? We hide from it, then we are all good?

SAVE YOURSELVES FROM THIS CORRUPT GENERATION. This is where we are.

DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MINDS. This sentence has a direction. We are going forward.

DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THE DESIRES THAT YOU FORMERLY HAD IN IGNORANCE. BUT BE HOLY. This is also going forward and upward.

Run away from bad things. Is this all God wants from us? No, from us, God wants us to shine his light, so all people can see God's light. Do not stay there. Be transformed and make transformation. God is saying, **“Starting from you, let my goodness flow to the world. Heal this corrupt generation by being holy.”** It starts from us. This is what our God the Father has in his mind.

Our God is not a small God. His grace and love covers the whole universe.

Our ignorance killed Jesus Christ our Lord and Messiah. But, instead of pouring out his anger upon us, God invites us to be with him and he gives us his Holy Spirit, his life, and his breath, his wisdom, his love, the affirmation that we are his.

Now what? We WERE in panic, but NOW, we ARE in gratefulness in the presence of God by the grace and love of God. **Nations are waiting to hear the word of the Lord, they want to listen to the good news. This truth is not just for us. This truth is for everybody.** If the generation is corrupt, then do we just hide from it and enjoy the joy of the Lord by ourselves? Yes, partially, but what about the people whom we love, if they don't know the truth? Of course, we respect the freedom of faith. But, what's going to be their end?

Our God is generous in forgiving, in loving, and pouring out his grace upon all people. When we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, we dwell in God's desires, not ours any longer. God desires all people to be saved. All people are to know the joy we have now. In this calling and in this promise of God, let us give ourselves to God and tell this good news to our family, to our neighbours and friends, and to the world.

This is the word of the Lord for us today.

Prayer for the people of God

God, your love is magnificent. You are glorious. You are awesome. You are wonderful. You are mysterious and you are all powerful and all knowing. Thank you for who you are. And you are too generous. We ignored you. We didn't like the truth, the light. We chased our own desires. Sometimes, we still do. But, you still love us and you still care for us. And you want to invite all people who are desperate for the life giving truth. Thank you.

Gracious and amazing God, we come to your presence and humble ourselves. Receive our worship and fill our hearts with your desires and your presence.

This time, we think of our family members, friends, neighbours, and the people whom we love, but still don't know the life giving truth. First of all, give us courage to confess that this truth we have is truly worthy of our lives. We chase a lot of things. Money, fame, recognition, honour, and world pleasures. Help us put you first. Give us the faith to trust you with our whole lives. And, then, help us pray for those whom we love, but yet to have the true life. Open their hearts for you. Give us opportunities to tell the good news to them. Fill our hearts with your aching heart for the lost souls. Help us know how serious it is. They are still wondering asking NOW WHAT! Please fill their hearts with your truth and let them build their lives upon your truth.

This world is corrupt. We hear selfishness, fleshly desires, and violence from news all the time. This world is insecure. Please God, shine your light upon each heart. Fill this world with your glory.

We all have our own matters. Physical pain, illness, relationship issues, struggles, psychological needs, financial needs, and all other life's difficulties, we bring them down before your feet. Gracious and merciful God, help us. We need your help. Strengthen us with your power.

Let us have a moment of silent prayer. God, help us. Let us take **1 minute** to pray.

God grant us our prayers. Save us. Give truth to the people whom we love. Be worshipped and be praised through our daily lives. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. Our lives overflow with God's blessing and goodness in Christ and in creation. Out of the bounty of our lives, let us offer God our gifts with overflowing gratitude. As we offer our gifts, let us praise God and glorify him.

The Doxology (BOP 425)

Offering prayer:

Generous God, you bless us with life, purpose, and opportunities to serve in the world you love. We offer you our gifts in Christ's name, not seeking greater gain, but desiring to enrich life around us with your love. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen

Song for the Journey – BOP 332 O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. The world is waiting for the truth. The field is ripe for harvest, but labourers are few. Why don't we come to God say, Here I am. God will pour out his courage into your hearts. God will give the suitable words to your mouth to spread the good news to your surroundings. Trust in God and spread out his love. People are wandering looking for truth. We have truth, let us help the world with the truth we have in us. May God be with you.

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.