

**Worship on June 25, 2023** (CCLI: License Number #3156883)  
(Welcoming Elder: Deborah Simmerson)

### **Sunday Order of worship**

#### **We Gather**

- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 324 Great is thy faithfulness
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Time for our children and youth
- Praise song – BOP 630 When we are living, we are in the Lord

#### **We Listen**

- Prayer for illumination
- First reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13
- Second reading: Psalm 69:7-18 (refrain 2)
- Third reading: Matthew 10:24-39
- Sermon: The nature of discipleship
- 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 685 How firm a foundation

#### **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**

To you, O God, we lift our hearts.

#### **Listen to our voices and answer.**

The Lord is good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love.

#### **God does wondrous things with grace and mercy.**

So let us glorify God's holy name together!

#### **We come to worship God in love and loyalty.**

#### **Praise song – BOP 324 Great is thy faithfulness**

#### **Prayer For Adoration and Confession**

God of grace, you created our minds to grow in wisdom. You created our hearts to expand with love for you and your world. You created our voices to sing your praises forever. Fill us to overflowing with your Holy Spirit, so we may worship you in spirit and in truth, bold and unafraid to follow Jesus, even when challenges confront us. In this time of worship, assure us of your presence with us and reveal to us the path you open before us, for we live to serve as your people wherever you lead.

God who creates the future, you call us to follow you, yet we prefer familiar paths. You offer us new beginnings, yet change makes us uncomfortable. You invite us into the fullness of life, yet we resist more than we already know. Forgive us, O God, and make of us courageous disciples ready to serve in Jesus' name.

**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, brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, In Christ, we are a new creation; the old life is gone and the new life has come! Trust that God loves you and forgives you.

Do not be afraid to make a new start!

**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**

Thank you God for the life we have. Thank you God for the hope we have in you. As we hold we our precious children and youth in our hearts and as we offer them up to your loving and almighty hands, pour down your presence and your faithfulness upon us. School is ending in a week. As children and youth are at school for the last week before summer, let them enjoy each other. Help them engage meaningful relationships with their friends. Help them form healthy inner being, identities. Make them your salt and your light, so within their friends, let them influence positively and godly. Fill their hearts with your faith, so boldly, let them live their daily lives in your presence following your guidance. With your grace and love, always watch over them. We thank you and worship you. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

### **Praise song – BOP 630 When we are living, we are in the Lord**

### **Prayer for Illumination:**

God of wisdom, open our minds to your truth, our hearts to your love, and our hands to do your will as we listen to the Scriptures. With your Holy Spirit, equip us to follow Jesus, who is your Living Word. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

### **First reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13**

### **Second reading: Psalm 69:7-18 (refrain 2)**

### **Third reading: Matthew 10:24-39**

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

### **SERMON: The nature of discipleship.**

Today's sermon title is **“The nature of discipleship.”**

I am trying to lose some weight these days. **The nature of losing weight is using more energy than gaining energy.** Eat less and move more. Then, we lose weight.

There is core of something. Then, we call the core value the nature of something.  
One more nature? **The nature of saving money. We spend less money than we earn.** Then, we save money. Not easy all the time, but that's the core of saving money.

Like this, there is the nature of discipleship.  
First of all, what is a disciple?

**A disciple is a person who follows some value, or teacher.**

We hear the disciples of Jesus all the time.

When we say someone is a disciple of something, then **what kind of impressions do we get?**  
He is committed to something. She focuses on something very passionately.

So, we understand that a disciple is someone who pours out his or her life into a certain value.

**A disciple pours out his or her life into something.**

Jesus called his disciples and travelled and lived together. Why did he call his disciples?

**When a teacher gathers disciples, what does that mean?**

The teacher wants to teach important value to his or her disciples.

Jesus, for three years, lived, ate, walked, and taught with his disciples travelling many places.

Imagine you were one of the disciples of Jesus. Jesus wants to continue his teaching in the wilderness, but it's about sunset. Would you be able to say anything to Jesus?

**"Uh.. Jesus, it's about evening. We should let them go home? Until it's too late?"**

Your comment could be accepted or not. This means, you do not have control over the teacher. You are expected to listen to what the teacher says. When a disciple said this to Jesus, what happened? Jesus fed 5000 people in the wilderness with 5 buns and 2 fish.

**Every person has opinions.** Disciples too have many different opinions. Jesus had 12. If every 12 disciple voiced what they thought, then they would have to spend too much time to decided what to do. But, Jesus did not. He is the one who made all the decisions.

**So, one of the natures of discipleship is to listen and obey.** Do not raise your voice but listen to what Jesus says.

**V24, "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master, it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master."**

Complete hierarchy. We don't like it these days. We cherish human rights and every small voice.

Jesus is saying that **a teacher is above the student, so listen.** Listening is important because, by listening, we learn. We extend our knowledge. We can fix our wrong and improve our inability.

Listen to what Jesus says, **V34, Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.**

It is very difficult to accept this. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. **But, he came for a sword?**  
Why? Why did Jesus say that? He is saying that I will destroy peace you have.

**V35, For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household.**

What is Jesus saying and why? Why family members stand against each other?

**“Like father, like son.”**

What does this mean? A man or a boy has the same attributes as his father. Son behaves in the same way as his father.

**Like mother, like daughter.”**

Same meaning. A daughter acts like her mother.

Look closely to v35. **V35, For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;**

A man against his father. // A daughter against her mother. //

A daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

**Traditions, habits and values are coming from upper generations.** And we take them very seriously, as if it's the right way, and only way. In other words, we take their teachings just like truth.

The disciples have their own values. **They built up their life upon their own “truth.”** But, Jesus does not allow them to bring out their own opinions, which they firmly believed that is the right way. That is the common sense for them.

**Jesus did not come to bring peace to the earth within them.**

**Instead, Jesus came to bring peace between God and people.**

In order to do that, we need to follow Jesus, his teachings, the truth. We need to listen to Jesus.

If we follow the teachings of our upper generations, they would be happy. We just do what we are supposed to do. Everything is in peace. **But, we might not be in peace with God.**

I love the Bible. But, today's passage is my least favorite. When I chose this passage, I did not have any idea what it talks about. But, I always wanted to know what it means, so I chose this passage for this week's scripture and studied for a week. And I realized how we should understand today's passage.

**Traditions are important and valuable. But, it's not more important than the truth of Jesus.**

**Matthew 5:17, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.”**

It is parallel to v34-35, **V34, Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;**

Jesus did not intend to harm the family relationship, but to enhance. Without the truth of Jesus Christ, we only focused to keep the law for the sake of keeping the law itself. Sometimes, we come to church to come to church, not to worship God. We don't have anything in our minds, but we just sit in the pew, without any heart. We just say I love you to our loved ones because it's a good thing to do but without love. In the same way, we keep what's handed down to us from our fathers, mothers, and parents-in-laws.

Jesus came to break the bondage and to free us.

**John 8:31-32, “Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, ‘If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’**

Do you know what the Jews answered to this teaching of Jesus?

**V33, “They answered him, ‘We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, “you will be made free”?’**

Their minds are so attached to the traditions and teachings from the laws. We are captured in the box of our learning and our experiences. We fail to see beyond. Jesus, the Son of God, came to us and grab out hands to come out of the law of the world. But, we are resisting to follow Jesus.

And we are claiming that we are the disciples of Jesus. Our hearts and minds are closed to the new teachings. When it’s different from what we know and what we are comfortable with, then we say “no.”

That is why we need to listen to what Jesus says, not what my heart says.

This is the nature of discipleship. Open your ears and eyes and embrace the teachings of Jesus. Put down your thoughts and accept the teachings of Jesus. It will make you free.

**The nature of discipleship: less of me, more of Jesus. Put down me, accept Jesus. Then, we become free.**

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

### **Prayer for the people of God**

God of love and grace, we thank you for being with us today. Thank you for bringing us into your presence. What are we that you love us so much! Thank you.

Today, we confess that we are focusing on what we know already. We try to understand you with our own knowledge and understanding. You are God beyond our reach. Give us courage to put down what we already know and our own traditions. Help us accept your truth. We want to see how you are setting us free daily. We imagine being free from everything. But, we don’t even know what this is because we never experienced it before. Gracious and loving God the Father, lead us to the true freedom. Give us faith to trust you and follow you as your disciples.

Your church is the light of the world and the salt of the world. We might be small, but because of the truth in us, we are game changers. Help us shine your light through our lives. Help us make difference in the world, in our surroundings.

We embrace and pray for this world. We hear selfishness and sin all the time. Have mercy upon us. There are killing, violence, destroying, and confusions in our surroundings. Pour out your light and salt to this world. Let us join your movement making this world better by leading and guiding this world to your truth. Use us Father.

There are prayer needs in our church members. You know our hearts’ desires. Gracious God, listen to our prayers and grant us our prayers. Let us take a minute or two in prayer.

Loving God, thank you for listening to our prayers. Faithful Father, we trust you. Hold our hands and walk with us all through our lives. In Jesus’ precious and wonderful name, we pray. Amen.

**Invitation to the offering:** This is the time for offering. Around us the gifts of God’s good earth appear in fields and gardens, speaking of God’s goodness to us. Our gifts also speak of God’s

goodness as we offer our gratitude for all we have received in Christ and in creation. Let us put down our own thoughts, but trust God. As we offer our gifts, let us praise God and glorify him.

**The Doxology (BOP 425)**

**Offering prayer:**

O God, we offer you our gifts in thanksgiving. Pour out your Spirit upon them and upon us. May the gifts we offer bear the fruit of your Spirit in every life we touch in Jesus' name. Free us with your truth. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

**Song for the Journey – BOP 685 How firm a foundation**

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. We are the disciples of Jesus. We are to listen to what Jesus says and follow him. In order to do that, we need to put down what we have in our hearts, and fill our hearts with his teachings. This is the promise of God: The truth will set you free. Let us become bound to Jesus alone.

**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.