

Sunday Order of worship on December 3, 2023

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Kevin Johnston)

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Lighting the HOPE candle – BOP 119 Hope of a star (vs. 1)
- Call to worship (Advent hand-out)
- Praise and worship
BOP 109 All earth is waiting
BOP 122 Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel
BOP 324 Great is Thy faithfulness
- Prayer for worship and Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture reading: 1 John 4:13-21
- Sermon: The Five Love Languages
- Communion
- Prayer for the people

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 830 Praise God from whom all blessings vs. 1) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 139 Hark! The Herald angels sing

We Serve

- Benediction

Responsive Call to Worship

(Please see the insert)

Lighting up the Advent Candle Hope Is A Star (BOP#119)

Vs. 1: Hope is a star that shines in the night
Leading us on till the morning is bright
When God is a child there's joy in our song
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong
And none shall be afraid

Praise songs

BOP 109 All earth is waiting
BOP 122 Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel
BOP 324 Great is Thy faithfulness

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Creator God, You made the heavens and the earth. You set the planets in their courses, lit the sun with fire, caused the stars to shine and the world to turn. Life springs up wherever your breath moves. In Jesus Christ, you brought hope into a world full of fear and despair. You sent your Holy Spirit to enliven our hope and guide us on the way. Now we wait in anxious times for the

world to be made new. Move in us and in all your creation to bring forth new life, while we wait with hope in your grace and goodness.

Redeeming God, We confess that waiting is difficult when the world around us is on edge. We are impatient with each other, waiting for someone to make a difference. We are impatient with you, O God, waiting for a sign that things will improve. Forgive us, O God. Turn our hearts to you again and again, and show us how to act in hope for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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

Hear the Good News! There is nothing we have done, nothing we will ever do, that can separate us from the love of God made known in Jesus Christ. Take hope in this love, and live as forgiven and forgiving people. Let us glorify God and enjoy him.

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

Prayer for Illumination:

God of grace, you speak words of hope in the midst of anxious times. Send your Holy Spirit to open our ears to that hope. Give us wisdom to read our own times through the lens of your grace, and find comfort and courage through Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Scripture reading: 1 John 4:13-21

SERMON: The Five Love Languages

Today's sermon title is **The Five Love Languages**

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. The theme, as you know, is hope. But, I brought the passage about love. That was intended. First, I was going to ask you to do the survey of the Five Love Languages, to find out what your primary love languages are. If we perform the survey and go through the result, it will take too much time, so I gave up.

But, instead of doing it, I will explain them.

Before we talk about any specific love languages, why am I talk about love languages today? And what are the love languages?

First of all, love language is a particular means we use to express our love to our loved ones. For example, if I want to express love to my wife, if time allows, I spend time with her and connect with her heart to heart. Or sometimes, I give a small gift to tell her that I love her. What about my children, I call them and ask to give me a big hug, then say I love them. Then they feel my love. The methods we use to say I love you to the people we love are love languages. And live everyone is different, everyone's primary love languages are different.

Okay. Then, what are they!?

Before we talk about it, I would like to tell you the reason why I want to talk about love when the theme of the first Sunday of Advent is hope. I think and I firmly believe that we are the hope of this church and hope for each of our lives. Here is one single chopstick. Can you break it? With some power, it breaks. Here are bundle of chopsticks. Can you try to break it? Is it easily broken? No. You really really really really have to put so much force to break it. Just like this, once we are alone, we are easy to fall. But, once we are bound together, we are stronger. How do we make ourselves stronger? With being together. How can we stay together? With love. Without love, why stay together? Therefore, in the love relationship we are building, there is hope.

Our Presbytery hired a consultant to help small churches like us. The two ministers from the Presbytery visited us twice already. First time, they met with me and learned our needs in my view. Second time, they came and met our session members. They will visit us again on Jan. 14, next year to listen from everyone from our church. Please don't forget to come out and make your voice heard.

Also, in order to engage with more people, we try new things.

What is this?! Café church? I have never been in any. Few months ago, we just randomly shared the ideas and café church came out. New things? So, it becomes challenge. Are we gonna take it or not?

I want to express my deep gratitude to the session members. This is new and we didn't know what will happen. But, they still support, help, and pray. Thank you.

We must face our reality. It's difficult. And we are tired. In human point of view, there are reasons to be disappointed.

But, at the same time, who is the Master of the church? Who is the Head of the church? Who owns the church?

The answer is our Lord Jesus Christ.

I firmly trust that God does not make mistakes. If something happens, there is a reason. If we are to be here at this location at this time, as God's cherished church, then God has the purpose for us. And if we are here together gathered as one body of Christ, there must be reason for it.

So, I would like to deepen our connections, hoping that we understand each other more, then we love more and we have more energy and we have more support for each other, just like the bundle of chopsticks

I don't know about the session members, I really do love them. For nearly 4 years, we've been having our session meetings monthly. Not even a single meeting was finished with negative or upsetting emotions. Maybe it's because we are happy to go home, but every time, we gather, we feel blessed. We feel hopeful. We feel supported. We feel that we are together.

Am I right, session members?

It's because we care for each other. We support each other. Because there is love within us.

So, I would like to introduce the 5 love languages to you. Even though, we are not doing the survey, you might be able to know which ones are your love languages.

There are five. 1) Word of affirmation 2) Quality time, 3) Receiving gifts, 4) Acts of service, 5) Physical touch.

[1] Word of affirmation. Those whose primary love language is Word of affirmation likes to be appreciated with kind words. They want to be encouraged. They love when they receive unexpected note of encouragement, card with meaningful words. They want to be accepted and be loved through caring, supportive, gentle and warm words.

[2] Quality time. These people value the uninterrupted time of connection. If they went to coffee shop and spend time together for three hours, but the other person checked the phone all the time, then these people do not feel loved. They thought their one-on-one time was interrupted. They want the full attention. They like to take a long walk together, to have weekend getaways, and to look at each other's eyes when having conversation.

[3] Receiving gifts. They consider the gifts not as materialistic value, but thoughtfulness. It doesn't have to be like 100 roses. If it's a small clobber leaf, they cherish the time and effort taken for themselves. The gifts are the gesture of caring and loving. Would you receive a small chocolate bar or a thank you text message? These people choose a small chocolate bar when people whose love language is word of affirmation choose the text message.

[4] Acts of service. They feel loved when others help them with their tasks. For example, doing laundry or taking garbage bags out. "Oh, she is sacrificing herself doing these works for me because she loves me." OR making them breakfast or bring coffee in the fellowship time, then they feel supported and accepted.

[5] Physical touch. A gentle tap on the shoulder. A warm handshake. A light hug when greeting. Or putting your arms around someone's shoulder. If your love language is physical touch, you don't mind. But, if it's not theirs, then they would freak out. So, we should be really careful. Especially these days, we should ask even before a gentle tap on the shoulder. I have some people in our church who like to hug me when they want to express their support and love.

What do you think your main love languages are? With the people in your table, share some thoughts. I think my primary love language is... Again, there are five. 1) Word of affirmation 2) Quality time, 3) Receiving gifts, 4) Acts of service, 5) Physical touch.

I will give about 5-7 minutes.

There are no better or worse love languages. Whether our love languages could be a Word of affirmation, quality time, receiving gifts, acts of service, or physical touch, everyone should be accepted as they are. Once we understand each other's love languages, we are able to care and respect each other in more desired and approachable ways.

So, let us love each other and let us unite our hearts with love for each other. There is hope and a bright future when we are together.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Communion At The Lord's Table This is the time for Communion at the Lord's Table. Psalm 80:3, "Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved." Through Christ, God came to us and saved us. Psalm 34:8, "O taste and see that the Lord is good." As we join the Lord's Table, let us confess our faith with the Apostles' Creed. (BOP 539)

The Apostles' Creed (BOP 539)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

(Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:) (Please say BOLD print together)

L: The Lord be with you. **P: And also, with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **P: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: It is our calling and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, Lord God, Creator and Sustainer of heaven and earth. Through the words of your prophets you gave your people hope by promising them the Redeemer. And now we rejoice that in your Son, Jesus Christ, the Saviour has come and will come again in power and glory making all things new.

Therefore we praise you, God, joining our voices with those from every time and place, to proclaim your glory in the unending hymn: **We lift our hearts in joyful praise:**

(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: We give you thanks and praise for sending us Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us, whose life, death, and resurrection have become for us the Way to find you, to know you, to join with you creating your new heaven and earth. We remember the night when Jesus gathered at the table with his disciples in a time of struggle and fear, took bread, blessed it, and gave it to them saying, "Take and eat. This is my body." "Take and drink, This is my blood." Every time we eat this bread and share this cup in Jesus' name, **we proclaim the mystery of faith:**

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

L: Come now, Holy Spirit, as you were present at creation, be present now, and let these gifts of bread and cup become for us the bread of life and the cup of blessing. As you were sent by Jesus to accompany us on our journey of faith, be present now, and transform us, our community, sharing love and blessings, as we share this bread and cup, into one body in Christ. Through Christ, by Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, almighty God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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:

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Saviour, glorious Lord. Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

God of miracle, God of love and grace, God of power, thank you for gathering us here to be connected to you as well as to each other. As we get to know each other, help us love each other. In the loving and caring relationships within us, we have hope. Jesus Christ, our Hope. In this Advent season, we wait for you with hope. You will restore our joy, gladness, intimate relationship, love, and passion. We wait for your presence. In your righteousness, in your justice, come among us and stir our hearts.

We thank you and praise you for this time. We tried something new. Café church. In more open atmosphere, more comfortable environment, we hoped that we experience you more friendly and to form loving relationships within our congregation. Bless your people for our courage to try new format of worship and for our sincere love for you and for each other.

Like the shape of cross, we want to establish firm and strong relationship with you and with each other. As we continue to worship you together, reveal your wills, so we may follow you faithfully.

In this hopeful season of Advent, remember the people who are experiencing difficulties through wars. Shine your light upon them, so they may be encouraged. Fill their hearts with you hoping that you will restore this whole world with your mighty power and glorious light.

God, you are powerful, but caring. You are big creating the whole universe, but you are with us listening to our smallest sighs. Thank you for being with us and thank you for loving us. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: The first Sunday in Advent celebrates God's gift of hope. It is not easy to be hopeful in stressful times. But God's steadfast presence gives us the courage to hope. Also, understanding each other and loving and encouraging each other always helps. So we offer whatever we have to share, knowing our gifts can spread hope and love in the world God loves by touching lives in Jesus' name. Let us praise God and honour him with the Doxology (BOP #830.)

Doxology 830 & Offering prayer:

God of hope, we offer you our gifts, knowing you can do with them more than we can ask or imagine. Bless what we offer as tangible signs of your love at work in a world on edge, and as symbols of the hope we share in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Friend. Amen.

Song for the Journey BOP 139 Hark! The herald angels sing

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. There is hope in love. Get to know each other and embrace each other and love each other with the love from God and with the power from God. One single chopstick is easy to break, but if there are many together, it is not easily broken. Let us gather our hearts and follow the steps of Jesus taking care of each other.

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.