

**Worship on May 5, 2024** (CCLI: License Number #3156883)  
(Welcoming Elder: Dr. Robert Revington)

### **Sunday Order of worship**

#### **We Gather**

- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 434 For the beauty of the earth
- Prayer for worship and Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song – BOP 377 Come, children, join to sing
- Time for our children

#### **We Listen**

- Prayer for illumination
- First reading: Acts 10:44-48
- Second reading: Psalm 98 (refrain 2)
- Third reading: John 15:9-17
- Sermon: The promised Holy Spirit
- Hymn BOP 507 Break now the bread of life
- Communion with the Apostle's Creed

#### **We Respond**

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 830) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 399 Spirit, Spirit of gentleness (Vs. 1, 2, & 4)

#### **We Serve**

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

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### **Responsive Call to Worship**

Let us sing to the Lord a new song,

**for God has done marvellous things.**

Let us make known the Lord's victory,

**for God's steadfast love covers the whole earth.**

Let us sing joyful praises,

**and join all creation to worship God's holy name.**

### **Praise song – BOP 434 For the beauty of the earth**

**Prayer For Adoration and Confession** (Let us come to God with the Prayer of C in Unison)

Holy God, the power of your love is beyond comprehension, the range of your compassion without measure, the depths of your wisdom knows no bounds.

In Jesus Christ, you meet us in the midst of life's joys and challenges to show us what it means to love and be loved. And, so we offer you our love and loyalty, and our prayers and praise; through the power of your Holy Spirit, draw us closer to you and closer to each other as friends and followers of Christ, our Risen Lord.

### **Prayer of confession (Unison)**

**Merciful God, We often find it difficult to love others as you command. We seek our own security before the wellbeing of others. We fulfill our own desires rather than act for the common good. Forgive us. Redirect our priorities, and renew our commitment to live out your love, even when that demands more of us than we expect.**

**Glorious God, hear us, as we offer the Prayer that Jesus taught us:** (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! Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ – and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and we are made new by God's generous grace.

**May the Peace of the Lord be with you.**

**Praise song – BOP 377 Come, children, join to sing**

### **Prayer for children**

#### **Prayer for Illumination:**

Lord, we long for your wisdom and truth. Send your Holy Spirit to guide us as we listen to the Scriptures. Prepare our ears to hear your Word and our hearts to receive it. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

- First reading: Acts 10:44-48
- Second reading: Psalm 98 (refrain 2)
- Third reading: John 15:9-17

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

### **SERMON: The promised Holy Spirit**

The main focus of today's message is from Acts. The resurrected Jesus stayed with people for 40 days before his ascension. Jesus promised another Advocate. **John 14:15-18, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.”**

We are holding onto this promise of God, so we are to be confident carrying out our own Christ-follower identity, even after Jesus left us. Through the Holy Spirit abiding in us, we are with Jesus. This year, the 40 days mark, the ascension of Jesus, is May 9<sup>th</sup>, this Thursday. We don't have special worship service, but I hope you can remember that day. On the day of ascension, Jesus returned to heaven. Jesus left the earth completing his mission. But, as he promised, he will

not leave us orphaned. Therefore, he gave us the promise of the Holy Spirit. As we can see from the passage of Acts 10, gentiles received the Holy Spirit. This means, God extended his invitation to become God's family to all people. We have the invitation to be the family of God. We have the promise to receive the Holy Spirit.

Recently, I heard **Arnold Schwarzenegger's** motivation speech. He is the actor from movie, **Terminator**, as well as a **former governor of California**. He was born in Austria. His parents were farmers. They wanted him to become a farmer and to carry on their family farm. But, Arnold didn't want the same life as his parents. He didn't want a quiet rural small village life, but he wanted skyscrapers, busy-ness of city life. He began searching how to escape from farming life in his small town. I am not saying that becoming a farmer is bad, but to Arnold, he had a different dream. In his searching, he found a bodybuilding magazine with a picture of Reg Park.

At the age of 14, he found his role model. He wanted to become like **Reg Park**. He had a dream. He found his clear goal. Of course, there were hindrances and challenges. But, because he had a clear goal, he never stopped. He had the motivation to accomplish his dream. He wanted to be like Reg Park. A famous bodybuilder, a movie star. And he wanted to live in America. At the age of 20, Arnold became mister universe. He exercised for 5 to 6 six hours daily. People asked why? Isn't it difficult? What can you become doing that? He didn't listen to the people when they say "he cannot." Because he had a clear dream.

As he took challenges, he said, "lifting the dumbbell was tiring and exhausting. But, I was able to overcome it because if I lift this dumbbell few more times, I knew that it would lead me to my dream closer. Through enduring these challenging actions, I was coming closer to my dream." That's how he overcame. He had a clear vision where he wanted to go. And he did not listen to naysayers, but he looked at his role model, his clear goal.

The examples of Arnold Schwarzenegger gives us an idea that we need something to look at.

Jesus ascended and the Holy Spirit came down to us. From Acts passage, when the gentiles received the Holy Spirit, what did they do? They were baptized. What does this baptism mean? What happens in **baptism**? We sprinkle some water on the head. It is the symbol of going into the water. Baptists put a person in the water. They make the person immersed. When we go under the water, what happens? We cannot breathe. We die when we are under the water. But, when we come out, we can breathe. We live. This is baptism. When we go under the water, we die. And with the life of God, with the power of God, **we are redeemed from the water**. We are rescued from the power of death and sin. So, we live again with the life from God.

**2 Corinthians 5:17, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"**

When we receive the Holy Spirit, we are filled with it and we are to bear fruit. Last week, we talked about Jesus becoming the tree and we becoming the branches. So, we are to bear fruit of Jesus Christ.

**John 15:16, Jesus says, "You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name."**

We receive the Holy Spirit by the will of God. We cannot earn the Holy Spirit. We cannot find the Holy Spirit with our own ability. God chose to pour out his Holy Spirit upon us. God also appointed us to bear fruit. When we pray, we are able to get answers. But, there is one condition

– **IN MY NAME**. When we ask God whatever WE WANT, it's questionable that God will grant us our self-willed prayers. If I ask for a sports car, **Lamborghini**, a half of million dollar sports car, would God listen to my prayer? Maybe. But, can we say that, it's the will of God? Do I really need the most luxurious sports car for the sake of the glory of Jesus? My answer to this question could be no.

When we have new life in God, our old self is changed through the power of the Holy Spirit.

To find out the price of Lamborghini, I went to their website and I saw an ad. It says, Lamborghini is for BAR-RAISERS. **Bar raisers. Comfort zone escapers. Pressure embracers.** These are the words they used.

Think about the works of the Holy Spirit. Because we have new life from the Holy Spirit, our life is changed. We have different perspectives now. We are now bar raisers. We cannot stay in our comfort zone because of the Holy Spirit. We are comfort zone escapers. Because we live with the power of God, we have different power. We are able to endure in pressures. That's the meaning of patience. We are pressure embracers with the power of the Holy Spirit.

How do you like these words? These are our new identities with the promise of the Holy Spirit! Would you dream with me to become bar-raisers, comfort zone escapers, and pressure embracers!

Let us dream together the Holy Spirit filled life.

What kinds of church dose the Holy Spirit want from us? What kinds of worship does he expect from us as he pours out his power and glory upon us?

What kinds of life are we to live as Jesus followers having the Holy Spirit within our hearts?

What kinds of fruit are we to bear because of the presence of the Hoy Spirit in our daily lives?

Arnold Schwarzenegger had a dream and his dream became the signpost for his life's direction and guidance leading toward his goals and purpose and values.

The promise for the Holy Spirit was given to us. All we need is to claim it to God.

God, we come to your feet to receive the Holy Spirit as you promised to us. Fill us with the Holy Spirit. Help us discern, guide our steps, give us courage. Make us bar raisers, comfort zone escapers, pressure embraces, peacemakers, witnesses of the gospel, and role models of your church for the next generations. May the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

### **Hymn BOP 507 Break now the bread of life**

**Communion At The Lord's Table** This is the time for Communion at the Lord's Table.

This is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. Our Saviour invites all those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared. Let us taste and see that the Lord is good.

As we join the Lord's Table, let us confess our faith with the Apostles' Creed.

### **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 joy and privilege to praise and worship you, Almighty God. With a rush of wind and tongues of fire, you fulfilled the promise of Jesus Christ by sending us your Holy Spirit to form your church. By the same Holy Spirit, you poured out your grace upon us with gifts, empowered us to proclaim your gospel and to serve you in our surroundings. In your presence, with the joy of your salvation and all your deeds for us, we lift our voices and 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: Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, you gave your life for us. You did not run away from the dreadful death on the cross. That's all because of your love for us. We praise and worship you for your incarnation, for your life on earth, for your sufferings and death upon the cross, for your resurrection from the dead, for your glorious return to God the Father, for your promise of sending your Holy Spirit, and for your glorious return for us. With all our hearts, **we proclaim the mystery of faith:**

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

L: Holy Spirit, who lives in us, stir our hearts. Make us escape from our comfort zones. Help us boldly raise the bar and embrace challenges and pressures in our lives. Fill us with your power from above. Fill our hearts with your love. 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**

“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:**

Holy Spirit, we are standing in your presence. Now, we try to become still and quiet and try to experience your presence in us. Holy Spirit, who lives in us, stir our hearts and fill us with wisdom and courage.

We come to you with our prayer needs. Gracious God, thank you for your tender care for each person. Immanuel God, you are with us all the time. You watch over us in our daily lives. Help us know you. Help us hear your voice. Help us know you more daily. Help us see our brokenness and make us complete with your power and with your constant and intimate fellowship within us.

There are people who are struggling with health issues, physical and mental. Embrace them with your love and heal them. Recover them. Also, there are people who are grieving for the loss of their loved ones. Be in their hearts. Stand by them and wait for them and cry with them. Fill their hearts with encouragement and hope. Be with them in their grieving process. There are people with frustrations, difficulties, and challenges of life and relationships and many other reasons. Be with them. Give peace in their hearts.

Loving God, thank you for the Holy Spirit. Thank you for the guidance and comfort. We rely upon you alone. We worship you and we praise you. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

**Invitation to the offering:** On Thursday, May 9th, the Church worldwide marks Jesus' Ascension which assures us that he will be present with his followers throughout every generation, in every culture and context. As we offer our gifts in gratitude, remember that they continue to honour Jesus Christ as the Lord of all times and places. Let us praise God and glorify him with the Doxology (BOP #830.)

**Offering prayer:**

Glorious God, with our hearts, time, attention, and money, to you, we offer up what we have, with thankfulness and joy. Receive us and our gifts and use them. Multiply them, so we can bless this world and we can glorify you and we can love you. Thank you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**Song for the Journey – BOP 399 Spirit, Spirit of gentleness (Vs. 1, 2, & 4)**

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world where God called us to be. The Holy Spirit is in your hearts. The power of God is with you. We might not be able to drive Lamborghini, but we can become bar-raisers, comfort zone escapers, and pressure embraces with the help of the Holy Spirit. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, let us set our goal and fix our eyes upon it as we walk closer to the goal.

**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.