

**Worship on May 19, 2024** (CCLI: License Number #3156883)  
(Welcoming Elder: Gord Osborne)

**Sunday Order of worship**

**We Gather**

- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 284 Revive your work, O Lord
- Prayer for worship and Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song – BOP 519 Jesus, friend so kind and gentle
- Infant Baptism

**We Listen**

- Prayer for illumination
- First reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14
- Second reading: Psalm 139:13-18 (refrain 1)
- Third reading: Isaiah 31:1-5
- Sermon: When the Lord stretches out his hand
- Hymn BOP 389 Breathe on me, breath of God
- Prayer for people

**We Respond**

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 830) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 384 O breath of life, come sweeping through us

**We Serve**

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

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**Responsive Call to Worship**

Breathe upon us, Holy Spirit,  
**and inspire our worship with your truth.**

Stir in our hearts, Holy Spirit,  
**and fill us with your love.**

Strengthen us, Holy Spirit,  
**and move us to act with your power.**

Breathe in us, Holy Spirit,  
**and receive our prayers and praise.**

**Praise song – BOP 284 Revive your work, O Lord**

**Prayer For Adoration and Confession**

God of power and possibility, with the flame of your Spirit, you give us energy to move into the world in Jesus' name. With the breath of your Spirit, you refresh us to engage life in its complexity. Your Spirit embraces us in the diversity and difference you wove into our creation and unites us in your love. We praise you for your presence with us in every time and place. In this time of worship, send us your Holy Spirit once again. Renew us to serve you in the world

that aches for the healing and wholeness you offer through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

**Prayer of confession (Unison)** (Let us come to God with the Prayer of confession in Unison)  
**God of mystery and mercy, we confess that we have not always paid attention to the urging of your Spirit to follow your will and your way. Too often we claim to belong to Jesus, yet we ignore his teaching. You created us to love one another, but we resist loving those who differ from us. Stir our hearts with your Holy Spirit. Transform who we are, and direct who we shall become through Christ's redeeming love.**

**Merciful and gracious 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**

These words are worthy of our trust and acceptance: In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Be at peace with God, be at peace with yourself and be at peace with one another. Thanks be to God for God's steadfast love and mercy!

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

**Praise song – BOP 519 Jesus, friend so kind and gentle**

### **BAPTISM**

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

Holy Spirit, open our ears, our minds and hearts so that we encounter God's Living Word in the Scriptures. May that Word inform and empower all our actions in the example of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

- First reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14
- Second reading: Psalm 139:13-18 (refrain 1)
- Third reading: Isaiah 31:1-5

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

#### **SERMON: When the Lord stretches out his hand**

There is a term Helicopter parents.

They love their child so much and they try to meet all the need their child might have. They hover around, and they are ready to reach out their hands for their beloved child.

Most of the time this term helicopter parents is used negatively. Is loving their children bad? Is meeting their needs bad? No. Helicopter parents are considered negatively because they take away opportunities for their children to learn to do things independently. When children become certain age, they should be able to dress themselves. They should be able to brush their teeth by themselves. They should be able to pack up their own backpack. They should be able to

independent financially and psychologically. Parents' job is to guide their children to be independent. The goal is to help them grow up.

Those who have grown-up children, up to what age, are you taking care of them?

When they become 18, your parenting work is done?

When they become 40 years old and having their own children, then you graduate from your parenting?

When I ask some elderly friends, "When is the most difficult time as a parent?" I get many different answers. But, most of the time, they agree that every stage has its own challenges. But, we come to the conclusion that parenting never ends.

What is it like for God? When we become 65, officially senior, then God can leave us alone?

When we become 90, God the Father finally get some break?

Like helicopter dad, God is hovering over us. But, not in a negative way. Helicopter mom and dad truly love their children. But, out of love, they are blinded. They lose the ability to discern. What they need is the wisdom and courage, the help of the Holy Spirit. God, with a proper balance and distance, guides our lives. God helps us grow continually.

Today is Pentecost Sunday. God's promised Holy Spirit came down upon believers to be with us, so we can rely upon the Holy Spirit any time. Therefore, like today's Isaiah passage, when Israelites relied upon Egypt instead of God, God couldn't take it. God, as a good Father, had to call his precious children back to him. As God calls them back, he reveals his anger.

**Isaiah 30:1-3, "Oh, rebellious children, says the Lord, who carry out a plan, but not mine; who makes an alliance, but against my will, adding sin to sin; who set out to go down to Egypt without asking for my counsel, to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh, and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt; therefore the protection of Pharaoh shall become your shame, and the shelter in the shadow of Egypt your humiliation."**

Isaiah 31 is almost the repetition of Isaiah 30. God repeatedly urges his own people to turn to him and rely on him alone.

Israel was in a crisis, They could not resolve the problem. So they turned to Egypt for help, not God. This Isaiah passage is what God said to the people of Israel when God saw the Israelites relying upon human alliance.

Isaiah 31:1 is very similar to its previous chapter. God laments for Israel going down to Egypt for help. **"Alas for those who go down to Egypt for help and who rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the Lord!"**

When we read this, what comes in our hearts? God is sad that his children turned away from him. Why did they have to depend on other people? God continuously helped them and led their steps. God kept calling them to turn back to him, but Israelites kept looking at something else than God.

Examples. Book of Judges. There was no king at that time. God reigned his own people through Judges. When they have peaceful time, what happens? They look other thing. They turn away from God. When they fell, when they experienced difficulties, they called God.

When King David was in difficult situations, he clung to God. God was the only One he can depend upon. But, when everything was going well, he didn't even go to war. He was taking a walk and saw Bathsheba taking a shower and fell into sin. David, who pleased God with his faith, turned away from God, committed adultery.

How are we doing? Are we satisfied with everything with our lives? This might mean that we are not desperate for God. Then, it might be hard for us to focus on God. Israel forgot about God. God had to repeat himself in Isaiah 30 and 31. Turn back to me! I am the One who can help you. I am the One who is powerful. Who can compare with me! This is the message of God for them.

**V4, “For thus the Lord said to me, As a lion or a young lion growls over its prey, and – when a band of shepherds is called out against it – is not terrified by their shouting or daunted at their noise, so the Lord of hosts will come down to fight upon Mount Zion and upon its hill.”**

When a strong young lion stands growling over a sheep it has killed, it is not frightened by the shouts and noise of a whole crowd of shepherds.

This tells us that a lion does not have any predator. No one and nothing can stand against a lion. Like a strong lion, God is the strongest. Who's going to compete with God!?

Listen my children! I am going to fight for you, God claims.

**V5, “Like birds hovering overhead, so the Lord of hosts will protect Jerusalem; he will protect and deliver it, he will spare and rescue it.”**

**Matthew 23:37, “How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!”**

This is God's determination for his own children, his own people, even when they turn away from God.

**V3, “The Egyptians are human, and not God; their horses are flesh, and not spirit. When the Lord stretches out his hand, the helper will stumble, and the one helped will fall, and they will all perish together.”**

When God stretches out his hand, we can be comforted. We can be assured of his care. We can rely on him. And we will be able to turn back to God.

On this Pentecost Sunday, let us remember God. Holy Spirit is with us to teach us and show us his light. Whenever we turn away from God, may the Holy Spirit in our hearts re-direct us and lead us back to God.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

**Hymn BOP 389 Breathe on me, breath of God**

**Prayer for the people:**

Immanuel God, thank you for being with us all the time. Thank you for protecting us and guiding us. Today, on this special Pentecost Sunday, we were able to baptise Shahan.

Glorious God, thank you for the family's determination to raise their son in faith.

Strengthen the faith of the family and protect them safely always.

We sealed one soul with your love and grace. Likewise, help us bless many souls with your love. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and guide us.

Spirit of truth, as we come to the light of your truth, give us wisdom so we can discern your ways and give us courage so we can live out our realization. Change our hearts, purify our hearts, and make our hearts like yours. We want to be holy.

We pray for people with prayer needs. Heal their sicknesses. Restore them. Heal their brokenness inside, and broken relationships. Give peace. Give love. Reconcile the hurt. Revive our love for you and the passion. Have mercy upon us.

As we worship you, help us come before your presence and face you with honesty and humility. We are yours. Use us in your ways. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

**Invitation to the offering:** At Pentecost, God poured out gifts of the Spirit upon the Church, to equip Christ's followers to bear witness to him throughout the world. We offer our gifts and our lives to God, so that the witness of the Church will continue with the blessing of the Holy Spirit in this generation and beyond. Let us praise God and glorify him with the Doxology (BOP #830.)

**Offering prayer:**

Spirit of grace and power, bless the gifts we offer so that they may accomplish surprising things in Jesus' name. Bless our lives, too, so that our words and actions bear witness to Jesus' love and mercy each and every day. Amen.

**Song for the Journey – BOP 384 O breath of life, come sweeping through us**

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world where God called us to be. Be filled with the Holy Spirit and believe God's stretched out hands for us. May God walk with us all through our lives. Especially, God will raise Shahan with his love and care.

**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.