

Sunday Worship on June 2, 2024

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Edwin Webster)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 374 Oh for a thousand tongues to sing
- Prayer for worship and Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song – BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord
- Prayer for children

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture reading: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12
- Sermon: For we do not proclaim ourselves.
- Praise song – BOP 592 I, the Lord of sea and sky
- Prayer for the people

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 830) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 376 Lord, the light of your love is shining

We Serve

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

Responsive Call to Worship

Raise a song of joy and gladness before God.

We will make music and sing God's praises.

Sing aloud to God, our strength!

We will shout for joy to the God who made us.

Worship God who makes all things new!

We will celebrate God's goodness in prayer and praise.

Praise song – BOP 374 Oh for a thousand tongues to sing

Prayer of Adoration

God of all life and each life, you created us in love to enjoy your presence in creation. You made us in your image so that we would find purpose and possibility in our lives. You gave us Sabbath rest to breathe in your grace and peace week by week. In Jesus Christ, you show us how to share grace and peace with one another. Refresh us in this time of worship, so that we may leave with a deep sense of well-being at our core, for we offer ourselves to you through Christ, our Saviour.

Prayer of confession (Unison) (Let us come to God with the Prayer of confession in Unison)

God of all life and each life, you created us to enjoy your presence, yet we confess it is easy to lose track of that joy. When times are tough, we feel resentful. When someone else

succeeds, jealousy creeps in. Some days bad news is all we hear. Draw us back to your goodness and grace.

Heavenly Father, 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

Jesus said, **"Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest"**
Friends, trust that peace and forgiveness are God's gift to you this day. Be renewed by the power of the Spirit that moves with you into each day and new day.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you.

Praise song – BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord

Prayer for Illumination:

God of Word and Wisdom, you teach us ways that lead to healing and hope. Send your Holy Spirit to open our minds and hearts to your Word and Wisdom, so that we may know your healing and live in hope. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen

- Scripture reading: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

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

SERMON: For we do not proclaim ourselves

Today's passage is one of my favorites in the Bible. When I was younger, I dreamed to name my church "Life in clay jars."

As we heard this passage, we learn that we experience difficulties, but we cannot be beaten by anything. The Bible says, in **V12, "death is at work in us, but life in you."**

V7 states that "We have this treasure in clay jars."

This treasure is the glory of God. **V6, "For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."** God removed all darkness and filled with light in our hearts. **John 15:5, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."** God in our hearts, we have no

darkness. So, we can safely accept the teaching of the Bible that we have Jesus in our hearts. That is the treasure in our hearts.

Now, the second part. **"We have this treasure in clay jars."**

The Bible calls us clay jars. What are the clay jars like?

What is it made of? Clay. Dust of the earth. We are made out of clay as well.

Also, originally, clay jars cannot be mass produced. This means, potter makes each one with its own uniqueness and purpose. Look around, anyone has the same appearance? Anyone seems to have the same purpose? The Potter made clay jars differently for its own purposes. Just like we have different gifts and different purposes of life.

Also, clay jars are weak. They break easily. They require gentle handling. Who does not need gentleness in our daily life? I would like other people treat me with gentleness and respect. My heart easily gets hurts. Human hearts are not made of steel. We are sensitive. We need Tender Loving Care. Our hearts easily break.

God, knowing what our hearts like, sent his Holy Spirit in our hearts.

“We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.”

Because we have this treasure in clay jars, **“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.”**

Today is Aurora Street Festival. We are having a short service, so that we can go out together and shine the light of Jesus Christ. Not only today, but every day, I hope and pray that we all can remember what kind of treasure we have in our hearts. We are not proclaim ourselves, but Jesus Christ in our hearts. Let us shine our light!

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Praise song – BOP 592 I, the Lord of sea and sky

Prayer for the people

Thank you God for being with us. Thank you for casting away our darkness and filling our hearts with light. Let this light connect us to God and us to the world you love. With the power of your Holy Spirit, let us go out and shine our lights.

Right now, there is Aurora Street Sale. As we roaming through and meet other people, through our smile and kind attitude, help us display your goodness. Give us eyes to see the people who are desperate for you, so that we can go and share your love. Help us. Be with the Aurora Street Sale today and protect everyone with safety and joy.

Later today, General Meeting of the Presbyterian Church in Canada will begin. For the whole week, be with those who are attending. Give your wisdom and clear mind to discern important issues for your church. Holy Spirit, stir the hearts of the participants and lead your church in your ways.

Help us remember how fragile we are. Make us humble and help us treat each other with love and care. Also, help us remember what we have in our hearts. We have Jesus Christ, the most precious treasure. Let this light shine through our lives. We praise and worship you. In Jesus' precious and beautiful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: Today the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada opens, drawing commissioners from across Canada together to discern God's leading. Our offering supports the ministries and mission we undertake together, in this country and around the world. Consider how your gift to God is multiplied in the witness of our denomination, combined with so many others! Let us praise God and glorify him with the Doxology (BOP #830.)

Offering prayer:

God of grace and goodness, we offer our gifts in gratitude for all we receive from you, in Christ and in creation. Bless the ministries of our congregation and of the Presbyterian Church in Canada in these challenging times. Give us safety in Aurora Street Sale. As well, protect and provide our need in our lives. Surprise us by what you accomplish through us as we sow seeds of generosity in the gifts we bring. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 381 Holy Spirit, hear us (excluding vs. 5)

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world where God called us to be. We are carrying the name of Jesus Christ. We have the treasure, Jesus Christ, in our hearts. The darkness was removed from us, but we have the glorious light of God. Let us shine our light.

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.