

Sunday Worship on June 23, 2024

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Gord Osborne)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 304 We praise you, Creator
- Prayer for worship and Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 500 Open my eyes, that I may see
- Prayer for children

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- First reading: Isaiah 40:28-31
- Second reading: Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 (refrain 2)
- Third reading: Mark 4:35-41
- Sermon: You cannot be perishing
- Hymn – BOP 662 Those who wait on the Lord
- Prayer for the people

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 830) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 315 A mighty fortress is our God

We Serve

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

Responsive Call to Worship

Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever.

We see God's wondrous works all around us,

so we come to praise God's holy name.

Open wide your hearts in this time of worship!

We lift our hearts to God with thanks and praise.

Praise song – BOP 304 We praise you, Creator

Prayer of Adoration

Creator God, we gather in wonder this day, astonished by the complexity of all you have made, acknowledging how small each of us is in the midst of your world. Yet your love gives us significance. When we are overcome by forces beyond our control, you speak words of peace. When trouble or sorrow sets in, you give us strength to persevere. Source, Saviour and Spirit of life, we offer you praise and honour, love and loyalty, with our lips and with our lives, now and always.

Prayer of confession (Unison) (Let us come to God with the Prayer of confession in Unison)
God, our hope and our help, You call us to serve in the footsteps of Jesus, but we confess we look to our own interests first. You ask us to love our neighbours, but we are good at finding fault in others. You call us to do justice for the vulnerable, but we hesitate to take a stand. Forgive us. Open our hearts to anyone in need, and help us trust in your mercy – for them and for us.

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

The mercy of our God is from everlasting to everlasting. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new. Give thanks for God's generosity and share it with your neighbours. **May the Peace of the Lord be with you.**

Praise song – BOP 500 Open my eyes, that I may see

Prayer for Illumination:

God of wisdom, send your Holy Spirit to us as we listen for your Word. Inspire us through what we hear to act with the courage and compassion we meet in Jesus Christ, your Living Word.
Amen.

- First reading: Isaiah 40:28-31
- Second reading: Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 (refrain 2)
- Third reading: Mark 4:35-41

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

SERMON: you cannot be perishing

Imagine the scene of today's story. I usually try to picture the situation when reading stories. Today's story is very fun to imagine, actually.

After long day's work, Jesus said to his disciples. “Let us go across to the other side. Let us take the boat.” They came on the boat, and they left the crowd. When they were in the middle of the lake, all of the sudden, a great windstorm arose and the waves beat into the boat.

Many of the disciples of Jesus were fishermen. Sailing was their job. They were professional workers on the boat. The ocean is their work place. They made their lives in the open sea, overcoming all kinds of challenging weather conditions. They must have experienced all kinds of difficulties in their career in the boats. But, now, this storm was different than what they have experienced. **V37, “A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped.”**

We feel the urgency of this situation. The disciples were frightened. Even though they were experienced sailors, this storm was different. However, look at Jesus. Jesus was sleeping. In this situation? Is he serious?

So, the disciples cried out to Jesus, “Teacher! Do you not care that we are perishing!”

From this, I chose the title of today’s sermon: YOU CANNOT BE PERISHING!

The storm they are experiencing was different in two ways from the storms they have experienced before.

One, it is too strong that they cannot handle it. They were able to survive through many different and difficult situations including windstorms. But, this one was beyond their ability. That was why they were so frightened.

Two, Jesus was with them now. Before they were called by Jesus, Jesus was not there with them. But, today, Jesus was on the boat together. **What difference does it make?**

Before we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, we went through our life’s events by our own power. But, now, after we have Jesus Christ in our lives, we are led by Jesus. Jesus becomes our captain, our driver, our leader, our helper, our guidance, our anchor, our companion, our shepherd.

So, Jesus being in the boat with us in the great windstorm makes huge difference in our lives. We are not alone any more. We don’t have to go through all the things by ourselves any more. Now we have sure foundation of Jesus. Now we don’t have to worry about failures. Because Jesus is with us, we cannot be defeated.

Sometimes, in the middle of the night, little children wake up in fear. They wake up sweating, terrified at some dream that disturbed their sleep.

A parent or two parents rush into the bedroom and scoops the little one into the arms and comfort the baby rocking back and forth. As comforting the little one, we would say, **“Hush now.. It’s okay now. There’s nothing to be afraid of..”**

When we read Mark passage carefully, we can find that Jesus did not use this kind of wording. Jesus acknowledges the feeling of fear. He told them “Why are you afraid?” It was not a question asking the reason, but it was more like scolding them for not having faith.

Here, Jesus relates the feeling of fear and having faith.

When we think about the cause of those feelings of fear or disturbance, we can come up with few things. Wind and waves causing them to sink. Wars, global weather crisis, it’s not global warming any longer, but it’s global boiling. Famine, hunger, lack of resources, violence, illness. Broken relationships. There are number of different causes for fear we can think of.

Then, what about faith? Where do we put our faith on? Boat, especially when they sail across the lake on the boat. They have the sure faith that the boat will not sink.

Traffic light and the people’s observance. If we do not have that faith, we cannot drive.

But they are not 100% sure. We see car accidents. We see some boats sink. **Then, what is the sure faith we can hold on to, which will never let us down?** This is the faith Jesus is referring when he said, **“Have you still no faith?”** This faith is pointing to Jesus. He is actually saying that **“Don’t be afraid, because you are not alone. Even though there is some fearful situation. I am with you.”**

We might encounter challenging situations like the disciples' windstorm. But, from now on, we know that there will be difference in our heart and mind and thoughts. **Because Jesus is with us, you cannot be perishing! You cannot be failed.**

"I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it." (Matthew 16:18)

This is the promise of God. This tells us that we, as the church, have power because Jesus will build us. This gives us power to overcome everything in Jesus.

Lastly, when the disciples were in panic, what did Jesus do? **He was sleeping in the storm.**

Then, does this mean that Jesus does not care about his disciples?

Does he not know what's going on because he was sleeping?

No. Jesus does not miss anything. He works for us whether we know it or not. He provides what we need whether we pray for it or not.

So, what does this mean that Jesus was sleeping?

Jesus was waiting for us to call him. Jesus was waiting for us to pray to him. Although Jesus knew what we want to ask him before even we say anything, Jesus wants us to speak to him.

And, he wants to show that he is all powerful. He is greater than the fearful wind and waves. The storm cannot harm Jesus. This means, because the disciples were with Jesus, the storm cannot harm the disciples neither.

In our life, we will experience storms. Jesus knows what we are going through whether we pray to him or not. But, one thing we can learn from today's passage is that Jesus is waiting for us to talk to him. Jesus is waiting for us.

40 He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

Do not be afraid of anything, but look upon Jesus with faith in him.

Do not worry about anything. Jesus will take care of us.

Do not be nervous, Jesus becomes our confidence.

Do not be fearful of anything, Jesus is with us with his mighty arms.

So, as we live our daily lives this week, remember Jesus. He is with us and he is waiting for us.

Because he is with us, we cannot be perishing. Failing is not an option for us. With Jesus as our foundation, we are secure no matter what happens in our lives. As we go through various challenges and windstorms, remember Jesus, who was sleeping soundly. How could he do that? Because Jesus is greater than storm or life's hardships. Please remember and turn your eyes upon Jesus.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Praise song – BOP 662 Those who wait on the Lord

Prayer for the people

Gracious God, the Father, we thank you so much for being with us. You came to us to be with us. You gave us life, you gave us power, you gave us hope. Jesus, you are the Giver of all the things we have. Because we have you in our hearts, we are confident. Our lives are safe in you. Help us remember the fact that you are on the same boat as we are. Because of you, we are saved already. We rely upon the precious name of Jesus.

Let us take a short time to pray for those we know that they are going through some difficult times, wind and waves. They might have feeling of fear. They might have lost their confidence,

or hope. Let us remember those people who are experiencing difficult situations. Let us pray for them for about 2 minutes.

Gracious and merciful God, we remember those who are desperate for your help. Sometimes, when waves beat our life, we feel like we lost the control. At that time, remind us the true driver of our life. Help us remember Jesus our Saviour, Giver of life, Rescuer, Redeemer, and our true Owner and Lord. Because you are holding us in your loving arms, we are cared, we are comforted, and we are safe. Let us enjoy your love and let us glorify you through our lives. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: The Scriptures comfort us to have confidence in our Saviour Jesus Christ. We are so blessed. And we are blessed to bless, so others can have the same opportunities to be comforted and encouraged. For this ministry, let us offer God what we have. God will work with us and through us in the ways beyond our knowledge and imaginations. Let us praise God and glorify him with the Doxology (BOP #830.)

Offering prayer:

Gracious and loving God, we offer our gifts with thankful hearts, grateful for your patience with us as you comfort and encourage us to have confidence in you. As we serve you in our daily lives carrying out our daily responsibilities, bless us and our surroundings. Show your blessings through our lives. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 315 A mighty fortress is our God

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world where God called us to be. In our life, there will be times of wind and waves. There are times that we will have to face fearsome situations. Remember Jesus. I believe in the works of the Holy Spirit. When you have some ideas, it doesn't go away but stay in your somewhere. And when it comes to the situation you need it, it pops up out of the blue. That is the work of the Holy Spirit. Our mighty God will remind you what you need in timely manner.

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.