

**Worship on November 24, 2024**

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Dr. Robert Revington)

**Sunday Order of worship**

**We Gather**

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song BOP 267 Rejoice, the Lord is King!
- Prayer for worship and Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 373 Jesus loves me
- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: 2 Samuel 23:1-7
- Second reading: Psalm 93 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: John 18:33-37
- Sermon: How much is your Jesus?
- Hymn BOP 353 Hail, our once-rejected Jesus
- Prayer for the people

**We Respond**

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 830) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 274 Crown him with many crowns

**We Serve**

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

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**Welcome and Announcement:**

**Responsive call to worship: (based on Jeremiah 23:1-6)**

Say among the nations, The God reigns.

**Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!**

The Lord is coming to judge the earth.

**God will judge the world with righteousness and truth.**

So let us worship God with praise and honour.

**We will offer God our gratitude for all that God has done.**

**Praise song – BOP 267 Rejoice, the Lord is King!**

**Prayer of Adoration**

God whose power is love, In Jesus Christ, you tipped the world upside down. You revealed your strength through compassion, and your power through his surrender to the Cross. In Christ, we trust that no set back or hopeless situation can prevent your glory from shining forth.

This day we offer you our love and loyalty in his name. With your Spirit of love, turn the world upside down again, so that mercy prevails over those who would rule by force, and truth triumphs over the world's deceptions. All honour and blessing be yours, Holy One, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, world without end.

**Prayer of confession (Unison)** *(With the Prayer of confession, let us come to God together)*  
Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for the coming of your kingdom week by week, but we confess we're not really clear on what that means. Will you come to set things straight in the world? Will you bring all things to an end or offer us a new beginning? Jesus, forgive us when we mix up our own desires with your purposes for your people. Teach us how to live out your truth.

**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**

Remember the promise the Apostle Paul declares: What will separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship? Distress? Peril or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through the God who loves us. Let us rejoice that, no matter what is happening around us, no matter what we have done, God's deep love will never let us go

**May the Peace of the Lord be with you.** *(Let us bless each other with the peace of the Lord.)*

### **Praise song – BOP 373 Jesus loves me**

### **Prayer for children**

### **Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)**

- First reading: 2 Samuel 23:1-7
- Second reading: Psalm 93 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: John 18:33-37

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

### **SERMON: How much is your Jesus?**

First of all, on Tuesday, we hosted the Presbytery meeting with dinner. After the meeting, many people came to me and thanked me for great meal and hospitality. Thank you so much for preparing great meals and welcome them with love and generosity.

Also, from Nov. 4-6, I attended a Pastor's Retreat. The theme of the retreat was Sabbath as a lifestyle (Poster) We were able to reflect how we are to rest and how we are to spend time with God. Thank you all for your understanding and generosity for me to take the time off to equip myself through learning opportunities.

However, there was one person who were coughing at the retreat. I didn't pay too much attention to that person. But, next morning, I was coughing. I still have the cough..

Sabbath, how familiar is this to you? It is the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment. **"Keep the Sabbath day holy."** This means take one day for God. Do not work and set aside this day to spend time with God. How do we spend time with God? What is the difference between rest and spend time with God? How do we use our Sabbath day?

Usually, don't we catch up our house chores? and enjoy freedom from work? and come to church for one hour? That's what usual Sunday looks like.

However, the commandment says "Keep the Sabbath day holy."

Holy? Holy means worthy of complete devotion and trust and worship. Holy means, in the core, to set aside, and to be different.

In today's John scripture, Pilate, Roman governor of Judaea interrogates Jesus to find out his wrongdoings. **V33, "Are you the King of the Jews?"** Jewish religious leaders could not accept Jesus' claims to be the messiah. Messiah means the promised deliverer of the Jewish nation prophesied in the Old Testament. The Jewish nation longed for deliverance. Because of Jesus' enlightening teachings and great miracles, people wanted Jesus to save them. They hoped Jesus to free them from Roman colonization. The Romans put their own governors in charge to rule people. Pilate is one them. Pilate asked Jesus "Are you the king of the Jews?" This is because Romans mocked Jesus by calling him king of the Jews because many people believed the claim of Jesus to be the Messiah, the Son of God. Of course, Jewish leaders hated Jesus and brought Jesus to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea, because they lacked the authority to execute Jesus themselves.

To this question, "Are you the king of the Jews?," Jesus answered in v36, **"My kingdom is not from this world. ... You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."**

For Jesus, being called the King of the Jews was not a big deal. He was clear of his identity. He was born to be the King and he came to the earth to be the King testifying the truth.

**Are we belonging to the truth that Jesus testifies?**

**Are we listening to the voice of Jesus who claims to be the king?**

**Three Dollars Worth of God (by Wilbur Rees)**

Wilbur Rees once wrote the following describing the average man's view of God:

**"I would like to buy \$3 worth of God please, not enough to explode my soul or disturb my sleep, but just enough to equal a cup of warm milk or a snooze in the sunshine. I don't want enough of him to make me love a black man or pick beets with a migrant. I want ecstasy, not transformation; I want the warmth of the womb, not a new birth. I want a pound of the eternal in a paper sack. I would like to buy \$3 dollars worth of God please."**

We can relate to this idea. Somewhat familiar, but not very pleasant. We know that God is good and his love is great. But, we don't really want to follow God with our whole hearts. We want instant pleasure, not transformation. To be holy, moral, righteous, and pure. These are what God is asking for us. We feel overwhelming and maybe our passion and our enthusiasm diminishes.

**God's salvation is to accept Jesus as our King.** Jesus being our King indicates God's desire for us to have a changed life. Jesus calls us to come to him and embrace him with all our hearts.

**How much Jesus do we want to embrace?** The grace and love of Jesus is pouring upon us like Niagara Falls. How much of grace and love do we want? Just like the writing of Wilbur Rees, are we going to satisfied with \$3 worth of God, like a cup of a warm milk?

There are people who refused to have \$3 worth of God only. These people embrace the values and teachings of God with their whole life.

American football player, **Tim Tebow** who was born in 1987. He uses his platform to share his faith in God and serve others. Through **the Tim Tebow Foundation**, he serves children with special needs, helps orphans, and fights human trafficking. He does all these as acts of faith in God. He could have just make big donations and enjoy his life. But, he established the Foundation and provides actual help for the need as his service for God.

**Nick Vujicic**. He was born without arms and legs. He only has two toes. He established a non-profit organization, **Life Without Limbs**, and shares the gospel worldwide. Just showing his body and just sharing his life stories overcoming his limitations encourages people and gives them hope for the life. He dedicated his life to share hope and purpose of life in Christ, no matter their circumstances. It is very difficult to find circumstances more difficult than his.

For Tim Tebow or Nick Vujicic, how much is their Jesus? \$3? Just a cup of warm drink? No. Jesus is worth of their entire life. No, more than their lives. That's how worthy of Jesus for them.

We are not talking about so-called saints of the world.  
Not just famous figures like Mother Theresa or missionary Jim Eliot.

I know an elderly couple who owns Dry Clearer. I know them from my old church. Their shop is close to where I live, so sometimes I bring my shirts to them. One day, they said, because they have to open their shop so early in the morning, they couldn't attend daily morning prayer from their church. Some Korean churches still have daily early morning service. Instead going to church in the morning, on the way to their shop, they pray out loudly. In prayer, they share their faith. Together, they worship God in the car on the way to their work. By giving their hearts to God and focusing on God, they give their life to God by finding time for God. Whenever I bring my shirts to them, they wash mine for free. And I know they give free service to many other ministers. This is one example for ordinary people serving God wholeheartedly.

God called us to be his hands and feet. He pours out his grace and love upon us, so that we can be overflowing. So that we can share what we have received to others.

What gives us satisfaction? How can we overflow?  
"Keep the Sabbath day holy" does not means to spend a day just to catch up on your sleep or house chores or TV shows. It is to restore the intimacy with God by connecting with God by spending time with God.

Few days ago, for an experiment, I set 10 minute timer and closed my eyes in prayer. I decided not to open my eyes during the time. How short was my prayer for 10 minutes? I wanted to open my eyes so much. It was not easy at all.

Prayer time cannot decide how devoted we are. But, it can show our focus.  
Try 10 minutes of prayer during the week. It could easy, or it could be hard. Taking some time for God alone might be not very familiar to us.

We can have Jesus like a warm cup of milk or Niagara Falls.

How much are you filled with Jesus? How comfortable are you embracing Jesus as King? Embrace Jesus with your whole self. Connect with him as keeping Sabbath day holy in him. May God guide you and lead you to his love and life in truth. This is the message of the Lord for us today.

### **Praise song – BOP 353 Hail, our once-rejected Jesus**

#### **Prayer for the people**

Heavenly Father, thank you for your love. Your love is faithful, unending, unfathomable, and personally intimate. Help us experience your love. Help us long for the true togetherness with you. We know your good. But, sometimes, we want the goodness in you and the pleasure this world can offer us. When the Israelites were hesitant to offer their hearts to you, Joshua or Elijah or others who gave their whole heart to you urge them to choose one. We now want to stop sitting on the fence. Help us live the fullness of our life to the full with you.

The weather is getting cold again. Many different virus and germs are around. Protect us in this season. Help us be mindful of others and help us be safe-minded.

We remember those in need of our prayers. Have mercy on us. We need you in our relationships, in our health, in our family, in our worship, in our community, and in this rapidly changing world. Reveal your glory through Christ-followers like faith hero we know. And help us be willing to display your awesomeness through our daily lives in all the things we do and say and think. Jesus Christ, you are the King of this church, St. Andrew's, you are the King of each individual and our families and you are the King of this town of Aurora. Reign in us and be lifted up. We give all our hearts to you. Accept us and use us. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and King, we pray. Amen.

#### **Invitation to the offering:**

As the hands and feet of God, let us bring ourselves before God. He can use our money, time, focus, attention, heart, willingness, love, and kindness. God can use any random things we have. So, let us open our hearts and ears, so when God wants us, let us make ourselves available for him. As we praise and worship God with our gifts, let us glorify him with all our hearts. Let the offering be received. BOP #830, Doxology.

#### **Offering prayer:**

Lord Jesus, you rule in this world through your love. Receive our gifts as tokens of our love for you. Bless and multiply them through the power of your Holy Spirit, so that they will spread your love and goodness and shines your bright light. Jesus, you are our King. Be praised. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

### **Song for the Journey – BOP 274 Crown him with many crowns**

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world where God called us to be. God loves you and God wants to be with you. God is waiting for you. Let us embrace God with our whole heart.

**Benediction:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, our Father, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.