

Sunday Worship on February 9, 2024

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

Sunday Order of Worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 299 Holy, holy, holy
- Prayer for Worship and Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 442 Speak, Lord, in the stillness

We listen

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Luke 5:1-11
- Second reading: Psalm 138 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Isaiah 6:1-8
- Sermon: "**Here I am; send me!**"
- Hymn BOP 592 I, the Lord of sea and sky
- Prayer for the people

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 79) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 634 Will you come and follow me

We Serve

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

Responsive Call to Worship

One: Let us sing and pray in God's presence.

All: Praise be to God!

One: For God has created the world and called it good.

All: Praise be to God!

One: In Christ, God has redeemed the world and defeated the powers of death.

All: Praise be to God!

One: The Holy Spirit is at work in the world, calling us to follow Jesus.

All: All praise and glory to God, Holy One and Holy Three!

Praise song – BOP 299 Holy, holy, holy

Prayer of Adoration

God ever creating, ever loving, ever leading: your presence is peace when we are frantic; your Word is truth when we face deception; your Spirit offers freedom when we are paralyzed by fear. You give purpose in confusing times; You call for justice when the world settles for inequality. For all that you are, all that you have been, and all that you will be, we worship you as the source of life, the promise of redemption, and the spirit of love in action, One God, now and always.

Hear us now as we confess to you our sins:

Prayer of confession (Unison) *(Let us come to God with the prayer of confession in unison.)*

Merciful God, you call us to fullness of life, but we confess our shortcomings. We have wandered from your ways and wasted your gifts; we have ignored your grace at work among us, and focused on loss and complaint. We have been suspicious of the motives of others, too quick to judge and too slow to forgive. Give us the courage to see clearly who and what we are. With your forgiveness, cleanse us from all our faults and failings, and inspire us to walk a new way. Amen.

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 Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. And the Lord is good to all. He has compassion on all that he has made. As far as the east is from the west, that's how far he has removed our transgressions from us. Rely upon the faithfulness of the Lord.

Rejoice that God has forgiven you and opens a new future this day.

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

Praise song – BOP 442 Speak, Lord, in the stillness

Prayer for Children

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

- First reading: Luke 5:1-11
- Second reading: Psalm 138 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

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

SERMON: Here I am; send me!

In today's passage, there are three different images. First, the glory of the Lord. **V1, “I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple.”** And **v3, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”**

God's glory filled the temple and the earth. Isaiah saw God's majesty. The throne, the robe, the temple. These images point to the greatness and holiness of God. And the seraphs, angelic beings, praise the glory of God. This first image reminds us that God is holy beyond our understanding. God's glory fills the earth. When we approach God, we must recognize his greatness and, at the same time, in contrast, our smallness in comparison. God is BIG, and we are small. In this small space *(put thumbs and index fingers together and make a space)*, the whole history of human beings and all our personal stories can fit in this small hole comparing to God's greatness. Please know that God is beyond our understanding.

Second image is burning coal on the lips of Isaiah. Isaiah realized his smallness and his unholiness before the glorious presence of God. He said, **V5, “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”**

Isaiah knew that he was not worthy to stand before the holy God. The closer we come to God, the more we see our need for his mercy. As the light comes closer, our hidden sins and weaknesses are more visible. When we see God’s holiness, we become more aware of our sin. However, God does not leave Isaiah alone in his sin. One of the seraphs took a live coal from the altar and touched Isaiah’s lips, saying in v7, **“Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.”**

This image of touching Isaiah’s lips with a burning coal is the picture of God’s grace. Isaiah could not cleanse himself, but God provided cleansing for him. In the same way, we cannot remove our own sin, but through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. His sacrifice on the cross takes away our guilt and makes us clean and holy before God.

After Isaiah’s cleansing, he hears the voice of the Lord asking, **“Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”** God does not force Isaiah to go. God simply presents the opportunity. Isaiah, having experienced God’s grace, responds with all of his heart, **“Here am I; send me.”** This should be our response as well. When we truly understand what God has done for us, we should be willing to serve God. Many people hesitate to say, “Send me,” because they feel unworthy, unqualified, or afraid. However, **God does not call the qualified. Just like God cleansed Isaiah, God qualifies the called.** If we trust God, he will equip us for whatever task he gives us.

First, we talked about the glory of God. Second, God cleansed us of our sins. Third, after experiencing God’s grace, we have willing heart to serve God.

How can we keep this willing heart for God?

The more we spend time with our close friend, the more we want to spend time together. We have more things to talk about as we spend more time together. The more we spend time together, the deeper the relationship becomes. It’s the same with God. Spend time with God in prayer, in worship, in reading the Bible. By acknowledging God’s greatness more and more, we recognize God’s holiness and our smallness and sinfulness at the same time. The more we recognize our shortcomings, the more we come to God.

It creates a virtuous cycle. We come to God more and more, we realize that we need God more and more. So, we come to God more and more, then we feel more of the need to come closer to God.

This results in the sensitivity of God’s calling. Be open to God’s calling. Stay awake for God’s voice. God’s call comes from prayer, scriptures, conversation with friends, radios, books, random street signs, and etc. God can use anything. So, stay open.

Also, please know that God cherishes you. God loves you. **God will equip you before sending you to anywhere.** Trust God. Especially in these cold weather, when my wife and I send out our children to school, we make sure that they are fully equipped. The lunch box, backpack, and water bottle. We make sure that they have enough layers of clothing. Checking their snow pants, snow boots, and gloves are dry and clean. Otherwise, we can’t send them out in this cold. We check all the details because of love.

When God sends us, when God gives us some mission, he gives us strengths too. He prepares us beforehand. Therefore, go when you sense God's calling. Walk the path without hesitating.

Isaiah encountered God in his glory. This encounter changed his life. He had the feeling of unworthiness before God, but after experiencing God's cleansing, he was willing to serve God. He was willing to go. **Today, God is calling us too.** Are we going to respond like Isaiah, "Here am I, send me!" The outward appearance of God's calling would be all different. In your daily lives, what is God speaking to you? Where is God sending you? May the Lord open your hearts and make you ready, so that you have willing hearts to serve the Lord all through your lives.

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

Glorious God, you are worthy of our praise. You are worthy of our love. You are worthy of all our services and all our time and all our attention. You are the King and Lord of wisdom, honour, glory, power and love. We worship you and we praise you with all our hearts. You are beyond our understanding. Reveal yourself to us. Help us taste your goodness. Fill our hearts with wonder and fear in your presence. Like Isaiah, cleanse us and use us.

God of love and mercy, we hear challenging stories around the world. Fear, sadness, disappointment, discouragement, confusion, conflicts, violence, selfishness, hatred, ignorance, sickness, hopelessness.

With desperate hearts, we come to you. Father, hold us. Restore us. Whatever we can relate to our situations, we know that you are the only solution. Come into our lives. Heal and restore us. Fill us with your presence, your glory, and your abundant love.

Every week, we gather here and worship you. As we worship you, help us grow. Help us experience your goodness. Fill our hearts with joy. Let the joy in our hearts overflow. Let our lives display your love and goodness. Help us shine your light around our lives. Help us be the vessels of your good news. Guide us and be glorified through our lives. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering:

The Lord continues his ministry in and through the church. All Christians are called to participate in the ministry of Christ. As his body on earth, we all have gifts to use and to share, both in the church and in the world, to the glory of Christ, our King and Head. As we give our offerings, let us glorify him. (*BOP #79, Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*)

Offering prayer:

God of glory, God of mercy, and God of love, thank you for equipping us before you send us out. You always prepare us first. You always fill us first. Help us overflow. Help us look around our surroundings and share your goodness in our lives. Encourage us to keep giving even when needs seem overwhelming and resources scarce. We entrust our gifts to you. Show the world your awesomeness through us. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 634 Will you come and follow me

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world where God called us to be. Let us be sensitive to God and let us follow his steps. Let us lift up our lives to him. Let us live for God.

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.