

Sunday Worship on April 27, 2024

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

Sunday Order of Worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 255 Now let the vault of heaven resound
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 260 Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord

We listen

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Revelation 1:4-8
- Second reading: Psalm 150 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: John 20:19-31
- Sermon: **Come, believe that Jesus is the Messiah**
- Hymn BOP 251 Christ is alive
- Prayer for the people

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 830) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 274 Crown him with many crowns (Vs. 1, 3, & 4)

We Serve

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

Responsive Call to Worship

In life, in death, and in life beyond death,

The Risen Christ is Lord.

In success and discouragement, in fear and in hope,

The Risen Christ is Lord.

Of the poor and broken, of the sinner and the sinned against,

The Risen Christ is Lord.

In Church and community, in our hearts and our homes,

The Risen Christ is Lord, and so we gather to worship in his name.

Praise song – BOP 255 Now let the vault of heaven resound

Prayer of Adoration

God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, we rejoice in this new day you have made. We praise you for the abundant life with which you bless us, and for all the beauty that surrounds us as spring takes hold again. We praise you for your Son, Jesus, and the power of new life promised in his resurrection. We praise you for your Holy Spirit at work in human history, to restore and redeem our hope with the power of new life. God of steadfast love, we worship you with the

Spirit and the Son, and claim your gift of new life, even in the face of any doubt or danger within the world you love. All praise, honour and glory be yours, O God, now and evermore.

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

O God of might and mercy, in raising Jesus from the dead, you showed us your power to defeat all that brings fear and sorrow to our lives. In his resurrection, Jesus promised to be with us everywhere and always. Yet we confess we are sometimes uncertain about your promises. We doubt the promise of resurrection for our own lives. Upheaval and anxiety eat away at our peace. Forgive us when we struggle to trust your goodness and your steadfast love 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

Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free from sin and sorrow.

In Jesus Christ, God offers us the gift of peace.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ fill your hearts 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 260 Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord

Prayer for Children

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

- First reading: Revelation 1:4-8
- Second reading: Psalm 150 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: John 20:19-31

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

SERMON: Come, believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

Have you ever had a moment when everything you thought and believed seemed uncertain? When fear or disappointment made you question what you thought was solid? That's where we find the disciples in John 20. They stayed behind locked doors, hiding, afraid.

And yet, into that place of fear, Jesus came.

Not with anger. Not with judgment. But with peace.
With love. With a purpose.

The Gospel of John ends this chapter with a clear message: **v31 “These are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.”**

This is not just a historical story. It’s a living invitation.

Come. Believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

And in believing, if you really believe, you will find life.

John 20:30 says, **“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.”**

John is telling us something very important here. He’s not giving us everything Jesus ever said or did. **The author, John, is being selective.** He chose what to say very carefully. It seems he has a very specific goal in mind.

And we find his goal in verse 31:

v31 “These are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.”

This statement has a clear purpose. That’s why the Gospel was written. Let’s take a closer look at v31 today.

[Part 1] “These are written...”

John is listing his miraculous stories in this Gospel. Jesus turned water into wine, healed the sick, fed the hungry, raised Lazarus, went to the cross, and rose from the dead. These aren’t random stories. **These are carefully chosen signs that reveal who Jesus is.**

They are not just meant to impress you.

They are meant to lead you. To lead you to faith.

[Part 2] “...that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God...”

This is the heart of Christian faith that Jesus is the Messiah. The Messiah is the Anointed One, the One sent by God. The One all of Scripture was pointing toward. The Messiah means the long-awaited Saviour King to defeat sin and death. On Palm Sunday, we talked about the expectation of the crowd and the intention of Jesus.

Jesus is not just a king to conquer political enemies.

He is the king to conquer sin and death.

He is not just a good teacher or a moral example.

Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s promises.

He is the Son of God. He is fully God and fully human. He is divine and eternal. He is the one who was sent by God the Father.

To believe this is not simply to say, “Yes, that’s probably true.”

Biblical belief is more than agreement. It is trust. It is surrender.

In the classic Christmas movie **Miracle on 34th Street**, there’s a young girl named Susan who has been raised to be practical and skeptical. Her mother taught her not to believe in Santa Claus,

or anything she couldn't see or prove. But then she meets a man named Kris Kringle, who claims to be the real Santa. Susan isn't sure what to believe. She wants to hope, but she doesn't want to be disappointed.

In one quiet moment, Susan looks up and says, *"If you're real, please let me know."* It's not a demand. It's almost a prayer. A child's cry for something true. And when her wish is surprisingly fulfilled, her heart changes. She begins to believe.

Isn't that the same kind of longing we see in Thomas? He didn't want to pretend. He wanted something real. And Jesus, in his grace, came to Thomas and said, **"Put your finger here...Put your hands on my side. Do not doubt and believe."** Jesus doesn't turn away those who doubt. He draws near to them.

After watching this movie, it became my prayer too. **"God, if you are real, please let me know."** For 3 years, I had been going to church every Sunday and attending midweek services. I sought God earnestly. After 3 years of seeking, one day, when the story of Jesus' crucifixion was preached, Jesus came to my heart on a personal level. **"My Lord, and my God."** So, if you have doubts, that's okay. In God's time, he will reveal himself to you and invite you into the personal relationship with him.

[Part 3] "...and that through believing you may have life in his name."

What's the result of this belief?

Life. Not just future, but eternal life in heaven. Fully present, abundant life. Life with God. Life filled with peace, hope, and purpose.

To believe in Jesus is to step into a new kind of existence.

Where sin is forgiven.

Where fear is overcome.

Where death does not have the final word.

John is telling us that **you were made for this life.**

And it is only found in Jesus Christ the Messiah.

So let me ask you, **"Do you believe?"**

Not just, do you go to church?

Not just, do you know the stories?

Not even, do you even agree with Christian ideas?

But do you believe, deep in your soul, that Jesus is the Messiah?

That he is the Son of God?

That he died for you?

That he rose for you?

That he is alive and he is calling you even now?

Because if you believe, John says, you will have life in his name.

That's the invitation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

That's the invitation of this Gospel. Good news.

And that's the invitation for you today.

You might be like the disciples, feeling afraid behind locked doors.
You might be like Thomas, wrestling with questions, wondering if you can really trust.
You might be someone who's never made a decision to truly follow Jesus.

Whoever you are, whatever faith stage you are, Jesus comes to you with peace.
He shows you his scars.
He calls you by name.
And he says:

Come. Believe that I am the Messiah. And live.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Praise song – BOP 251 Christ is alive

Prayer for the people

Lord, Jesus, we thank you that you still come to us when we are behind the locked doors, when we are in questions or in fear. You still come to us with peace and encouragement. We thank you for your cross, for the empty tomb, and for your living presence today amongst us. Help us to believe. Help us surrender our limited knowledge and understanding. Help us embrace your teachings. Through this faith, we want to enjoy the life that you are teaching. The life to the fullest. Lord Jesus, we wait for your guidance. Walk with us.

Gracious and merciful God, today we remember the life and service of the Pope, a spiritual leader to many around the world. You alone know the heart and the journey of your servant. We pray that you would comfort those who mourn, especially our Catholic brothers and sisters, and grant peace to all who feel this loss deeply. May this be a time for reflection, humility, and renewed hope in your Kingdom. Teach us, Lord, to walk in love, even amid our differences, and to long together for the day when every knee will bow before Christ Jesus our Lord.

We remember our church. There are people who lost their love one. Be with them. Fill their hearts with your resurrection hope, with peace, and with loving memories. Embrace them with your love. There are people with physical pains and illnesses. Strengthen them. Heal them. Recover their health. Also, there are pains in hearts and emotions, or in relationships, or in family, or in situations. We cannot know all, but you know all. God, come and visit them. Be present in their situations in love and lead and guide them so that we can gain energy and power through you. So that we can truly live the life you want us to live.

We are here to worship you. Bless our hearts and be glorified through our lives.
In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering:

In this season of Easter, we celebrate God's most precious gift to us in Christ's dying and rising. As we present our offering today, let us give with thankful hearts, trusting that God can do

amazing things through the gifts we offer in Jesus' name. As we give our offerings, let us glorify him. (*BOP #830, Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*)

Offering prayer:

Generous God, along with our gifts, we offer you our thanks for your steadfast love, our foundation when things around us seem uncertain. Bless these gifts and the ministry of our congregation; and bless the mission we undertake as part of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. May what we offer spread the blessings we know to others, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. 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. Sometimes, we experience the unexpected. We fear. We are disappointed. We lose peace. But Jesus, King of kinds, Prince of peace, comes to us to fill our hearts with him and to give us life. That is who Jesus is and his resurrection teaches us his amazing love.

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.