

Sunday Worship on June 1, 2025

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Robert Kennedy)

Sunday Order of Worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 763 To show by touch and word
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 399 Spirit, Spirit of gentleness (Vs. 1, 4)

We listen

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Ephesians 1:15-23
- Second reading: Psalm 47 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Acts 1:1-11
- Sermon: **You will receive power**
- Hymn BOP 528 Jesus calls us here to meet him
- Communion with The Apostles' Creed
- Prayer after communion

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 830) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 592 I, the Lord of sea and sky

We Serve

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

Responsive Call to Worship

Let every creature in heaven and on earth shout to God and sing with joy!

Blessing and honour, glory and power be to our God for ever and ever!

Let us raise our prayers and praises to God in worship this day!

Blessing and honour, glory and power be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.

Praise song – BOP 763 To show by touch and word

Prayer of Adoration

God of glory and majesty, God of mystery and mercy, in Christ Jesus you came to live among us, sharing in our joys and sorrows. After he suffered and died for our sake, you raised him and took him up in glory so that he might fulfill all things.

As our ascended Lord, he gives hope to your people in all places, in every generation and every situation.

So we claim that hope this day, for ourselves and for the world you love, offering you our praise and worship in the name of Jesus Christ, who now lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

You desire us to share in the unity and be one as you are Three in One. We confess that such unity often eludes us. We dwell on our differences and find reasons to criticize each other. The love you called us to offer one another disappears when we disagree. Forgive us for making our opinions and preferences into dividing lines within the body of your Church. Call us again to honour the unity and love you cherish for your followers, so we may witness to unity and love in this divided world.

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 the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ – and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and given a ministry of reconciliation for his sake.

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

Praise song – BOP 399 Spirit, Spirit of gentleness (Vs. 1, 4)

Prayer for Children

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

- First reading: Ephesians 1:15-23
- Second reading: Psalm 47 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Acts 1:1-11

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

SERMON: You will receive power

The Holy Spirit empowers ordinary people to live extraordinary lives for the glory of God.

There are times in life when we feel powerless. When a loved one is going through a difficult time, and there's nothing we can do. The world feels overwhelming. Wars break out. Economies shake. Injustice is everywhere.

Even in our spiritual lives, we can feel dry, tired, and uncertain. We ask, **“How can I keep going? How can I make a difference?”**

Into this world, Jesus speaks these words, **“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.”**

Jesus doesn't promise an easy life. He doesn't promise safety, comfort, or success. But he does promise power. Not to control others, but to live faithfully as his witnesses.

That promise wasn't just for the first disciples.

It is for us. Right now. Today.

Let us listen again to his words, and discover what this power truly means.

“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised... In a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Jesus doesn't tell them to act. Instead, he tells them to wait.

This is significant. Before they do anything, they must first receive something. The Christian life does not begin with our good hearts, our good intentions, or our effort and love. **It begins with God's promise.**

The disciples are not told to go out and try harder. They are told to wait for the power that will change everything.

That power is not a motivational speech or a self-help plan. It's not a clever strategy or natural charisma.

It is the Holy Spirit.

The very presence of God comes to dwell in God's people.

Many of us attempt to live the Christian life on our own strength.

And what we experience is burnout.

Jesus says. **“Wait. Receive. Then go.”**

God's work must be done by God's power.

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses...”

The Holy Spirit is not given, so we can feel spiritual. He is given so we can be witnesses.

What is a witness?

A witness is someone who tells what they've seen and heard. The early disciples had seen Jesus. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Now they were being empowered to go and share that good news.

And locational-wise, not just in one place. Jesus says, V8, **“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

This is a call to movement. The Holy Spirit pushes us outward.

To share love in our neighbourhoods

To speak truth in our cities

To extend grace across boundaries

To carry the name of Jesus Christ everywhere

This faith we have received is not a private faith.

It's a public calling.

WHOSE WITNESS ARE YOU?

Not just the pastor. Not just the missionaries. Every believer, filled with the Holy Spirit, is sent with a purpose.

Remember who these disciples were?

They were not religious leaders. They were not political leaders. They were not educated. They did not have high social positions.

They were fishermen, tax collectors, mothers, brothers, young and old.

They were flawed. They were weak. They doubted themselves.

When Jesus died on the cross, they ran away.

But, to them, Jesus still said, “You will receive power.”

That’s the miracle of the gospel. That is the mystery of the Good News.

God doesn’t wait for perfect people. **Jesus fills broken people with perfect power.**

2 Corinthians 4:7, “But 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.”

Jesus fills us with his perfect power, even though we are fragile.

When the Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples, these same fearful disciples became bold in proclaiming the name of Jesus Christ.

They spoke languages they never learned. They healed the sick. They loved the outcast. They forgave their enemies. They turned the world upside down.

That same Holy Spirit is in us.

We are not alone. We are not forgotten.

We are weak, but we are NOT weak.

We are filled with the power of the living God.

Notice what the disciples ask in **v6, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”**

They want to know about timing. When I drive with my children, they always ask the same question, every single day. **“Are you there yet?”**

Why do they ask this question? Because they want to know how long they have to endure this boredom. They are not comfortable staying in the car doing nothing. They want to have their own comfort.

In the same way, the disciples wanted political change. Control. Security. These were the things that comforted them.

But Jesus redirected them, **v7, “It is not for you to know the times... v8 but you will receive power...”**

The power of the Holy Spirit is NOT given, so we can escape suffering.

The power of the Holy Spirit is given, so that we can endure it with faith.

The power of the Holy Spirit NOT is given to make us feel safe, but to make us bold. Because of the presence of God, we are NOT to fear, but to be courageous.

Sometimes, we want God to fix some people, or this world around us. But, do you know what God wants? God wants to fill us first, so we can be his witnesses in the world.

After Jesus spoke these words, he ascended into heaven. But he did not leave them alone. He told them to wait. And in just a few days, Pentecost came. The Holy Spirit came down upon the disciples.

Fire poured down. The Holy Spirit filled. The church was born.

But we don't have to wait like they did. The Holy Spirit has already come. The question now is, **"Are we open to receive the Holy Spirit?"**

Do we live as if we are filled with power?

Do we trust that God can work through us, even when we feel small or tired or in failure?

To all his people, these are Jesus' words. Not a wish. Not a suggestion.

But, a promise. Jesus said, **"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses..."**

We are NOT powerless.

We are NOT forgotten.

We are NOT on our own.

We are filled with God's Holy Spirit. We are empowered for God's mission. We are alive in God's purpose.

So let us go, not with fear, but with faith.

Let us witness, not by our strength, but by His Holy Spirit.

Let us live, not with defeat, but with power.

This is the message of the Lord for us today. Amen.

Praise song – BOP 528 Jesus calls us here to meet him

Communion At The Lord's Table

Friends, this is the table of our risen and ascended Lord, Jesus Christ. He invites all who trust in him to come and be fed.

Come, just as you are. All are welcome.

At this table, we remember Jesus' death and resurrection. And today, we remember his ascension, his return to the Father, not to abandon us, but to reign in glory and prepare us to receive the Holy Spirit. We come to be nourished by his grace, strengthened for the journey ahead. Now, let us confess our faith together through The Apostles' Creed.

The Apostles' Creed (BOP 539)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into

heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:) (Please say BOLD print together)

L: The Lord be with you. **P: And also, with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **P: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

L: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, Lord God, Creator of heaven and earth.

From the days when you called Moses and Miriam to lead your people, your love has brought freedom in the face of oppression, and guidance through the wilderness of trials and temptations.

When your people turned from your ways, you called us back to you through your prophets.

In Christ Jesus, you came to live among us, to show us how to follow your truth and find our joy complete in you.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels, with your prophets, apostles, saints and servants in every time and place:

(Sanctus) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L: God of majesty and mercy, blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Sent to be our Saviour, he delivered us from sin and death, bringing us abundant life through his courage and compassion.

Dying on the cross, he gave up his life so that we might live.

By raising him to new life, God, you promise us life everlasting.

Ascended to your right hand, he spreads his mercy throughout your whole creation.

Remembering your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this cup to celebrate your salvation through Christ.

We praise you, Lord Jesus, saying:

P: Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

L: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. May they be for us communion in the body and blood of your Son, Jesus.

Around this table, join us with the faithful of every age, so that we may be strengthened by their witness and supported by their fellowship. Give us courage to serve you faithfully until the promised day of resurrection, when we will feast with you at your table in glory with the redeemed of all the ages.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of the BREAD and Pouring the WINE

(The minister breaks bread in the presence of the people, saying:)

The Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and said,

“This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

(The minister may pour wine into the cup, lifting it while saying:)

In the same way, he took the cup after supper, saying,

“This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

(Distribution of the elements)

Every time you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. (Take some time for personal prayer)

Prayer after Communion:

Lord Jesus, you have not left us alone. You have given us the Holy Spirit. This means your very presence is within us. We confess that we often live as if we are powerless. But today, we remember your promise.

“You will receive power.”

Open our hearts to receive that power from above.

Fill us again. Send us again. Use us again.

May we become your witnesses in our homes, in our neighbourhoods, in our church, and to the ends of the earth.

Come, Holy Spirit. Empower your people.

We remember those who are struggling physically—those facing illness, pain, or recovery. Holy Spirit, be their comforter and healer. Restore their bodies and uplift their spirits. Be with the doctors, nurses, and loved ones caring for them.

We pray for those who are battling silently. Those carrying emotional burdens, fear, loneliness, or mental health challenges. Surround them with your peace. Breathe new life into their souls. Let them know that they are not alone. You are with them.

We also remember those facing hard decisions, financial stress, family tension, and job uncertainty. Holy Spirit, be their guide. Give them strength for today and hope for tomorrow. Remind them that you are working even when we cannot see it.

We lift up to your hand the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Thank you for guiding us for 150 years. Beginning from today, they will seek your presence in our church. Give all the participants your Holy Spirit. Let them have wisdom and courage, so that they may boldly make decisions to follow your path.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Melt us, mold us, fill us, and use us. We want to be your witnesses, not just with our words, but with our lives. Make us bold in love, strong in grace, and joyful in serving. In Jesus' precious and beautiful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering:

Though the Easter season draws to a close today, we continue to enjoy the blessings God pours out for us in Christ and in creation. Let us give thanks to God for these blessings as we present our offering in Jesus' holy name.

As we give our offerings, let us glorify him.

(BOP #830, Praise God from whom all blessings flow.)

Offering prayer:

Eternal God, we praise you that Christ has ascended to rule in love at your right hand. And the Holy Spirit continues the work of salvation throughout your creation. We offer our gifts and our lives in gratitude for your work, and dedicate our lives and our gifts to your purposes. Use us. We are yours. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 592 I, the Lord of sea and sky

Now, it is time for us to be sent to the world where God called us to be.

We trust the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will receive power from him. So, let us be patient. Let us not rely upon our own power and wisdom, but rely upon the true source of our life, the Holy Spirit. Like the first disciples, let us wait for the Holy Spirit in togetherness and in prayer.

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.