

Sunday Worship on June 29, 2025

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Don Hutchinson)

Sunday Order of Worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 400 Spirit of the living God
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 662 Those who wait on the Lord

We listen

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-25
- Second reading: Psalm 16 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Luke 9:51-62
- Sermon: **The cost of the journey**
- Hymn BOP 634 Will you come and follow me
- Prayer for the people

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 457 Now thank we all our God) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 324 Great is thy faithfulness

We Serve

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

Responsive Call to Worship

It is good to give thanks to God;

Let us sing praises to God's holy name!

We will declare God's steadfast love in the morning,

And God's faithfulness night after night.

Let us make a joyful noise in our worship!

For God is good and we know God's blessings.

Let us worship God with grateful hearts;

We will give God thanks in our prayers and praise.

Praise song – BOP 400 Spirit of the living God

Prayer of Adoration

Faithful and fruitful God, you created our minds to grow in wisdom.

You created our hearts to expand with love. You created our voices to sing your praises forever.

We bring you our worship with joyful praise,

turning to Jesus for grace and guidance. Fill us to overflowing with your Holy Spirit so that the fruit of the Spirit will bound in our lives. May we worship you in spirit and in truth, and serve you in the example of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Prayer of confession (Unison)

Faithful, fruitful God, you call us to follow you, whatever the circumstance, yet we confess we prefer to remain where we are. You offer us new beginnings, yet we continue to make the same choices, guided by our own desires. We make excuses for avoiding your challenge to change. Forgive us, O God. Cleanse us with your mercy, and energize us to serve you even when the challenge seems great.

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

In Christ, we are made a new creation; the old life is gone and the new life has come! Know that God loves you and forgives you.

Do not be afraid to make a new start!

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

Praise song – BOP 662 Those who wait on the Lord

Prayer for Children

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

- First reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-25
- Second reading: Psalm 16 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Luke 9:51-62

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

SERMON: The cost of the journey

Following Jesus means radical commitment. True discipleship costs us comfort, convenience, and control. But true discipleship gives us Christ.

We will take a look at the word of the Lord with the title The Cost of the Journey.

Every journey has a cost. Whether you are going on vacation, starting a new career, or raising a child, something must be given.

Time, money, energy, or comfort.

In today's Luke passage, Jesus begins the most important journey of all. **V51, “He sets his face to go to Jerusalem.”**

This is not just a travel update. This is a turning point in Luke's gospel. Jesus has been teaching and healing, **but now, he turns toward the cross.** He knows what lies ahead. Betrayal, suffering, and death.

And still, he walks forward.

And on this journey, he calls others to join him. But the cost of that journey is higher than most are ready to pay because discipleship is urgent and uncomfortable.

As Jesus walks, someone says, **“I will follow you wherever you go!”** It sounds bold and noble. But Jesus responds, **“Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”**

Jesus does not say, “Welcome aboard!” Instead, he offers a reality check. Following him means discomfort, even homelessness. There are no guarantees of safety, security, or success. **The only promise is his presence.**

This is hard for us. We want a faith that fits into our schedules, that blesses us without stretching us too much. But Jesus doesn’t promise ease. He promises himself. The question is: **Are we following Jesus for comfort, or for Christ himself?**

To another person, Jesus says, **“Follow me.”** But the man replies, **“Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”**

Now, this sounds reasonable, even honourable. However, Jesus says, **“Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”**

What is Jesus saying? Not the family does matter, but that **nothing should come before obedience to his call.** Not even the most sacred duties.

“Lord, first let me do something...” is a contradiction to his call. If Jesus is Lord, then there can be **no “first let me do something”** before him.

When kids come into the car, they see some candy. Then, they reach out to the candy even before wearing their seatbelt. **“Let me have the candy first!” “After the seatbelt, you can have it.”**

It’s about priority. Things we want to do cannot come before safety.

Likewise, we cannot follow Jesus only when it’s convenient. Discipleship is not a hobby or a side project. **It’s a call to reorder our entire lives.**

Another says, **“I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.”** Jesus replies, **“No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”**

This is a powerful image. A plowman who keeps looking back won’t plow straight rows. His work will be crooked. Our works will be the same if we keep glancing over our shoulder, clinging to what we’ve left behind.

Let’s say that you are going on a family trip. About 5 minutes after departure, you are wondering if you turned off your stove. Okay. It’s for safety. So, you take time. You turn the car and check your stove. It was turned off already. Good. So, you hit the road again. But, after two minutes, “Did I lock the front door?” Okay, it’s about security. So, we go back and check. Did I turn off the light? Did I unplug the heater? Did I do this or that?

We can never leave our home behind..

Some of us want to follow Jesus, but keep holding on to the past. Our old patterns, old sins, old securities and old labels. As we talked about last week, when we received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, Jesus gave us a new identity. We are no longer what we were called. We are

no longer what we thought we were. We are children of the living God. We are beloved, we are cared for, we are supported, and we are connected to our heavenly Father.

Let us stop looking back. Our God is calling us forward. Let us not turn back. Look forward. Look up to God.

Today's passage is not easy to digest. It does not let us stay comfortable. But, it's honest. It's straightforward. Jesus walks toward Jerusalem, toward the cross. He invites us to follow, knowing it will cost us. Comfort, control, convenience, success, fame, power, money, security, and more. But what we receive is far greater. We will receive life with Jesus Christ.

So we ask 2 questions today.

- 1) **What are we holding onto that keeps us from full obedience?**
- 2) **Are we willing to follow, even when the road is hard and the journey costs a lot?**

Jesus is not looking for fans. **Jesus is looking for disciples.**

People who trust him enough to go where he leads, no matter the cost. **Let us follow Jesus, not because it's easy, but because Jesus is worthy.**

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Praise song – BOP 634 Will you come and follow me

Prayer for the people:

Gracious and loving God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ into this world not to remain comfortable, but to walk the hard road of love. Today, we hear your calling voice, "Follow me."

Lord, we confess that we hesitate. We want to follow you, but we also want to stay safe. We want to obey, but not if it costs too much. Help us to see the worth of Christ. You are greater than all we can ever imagine. Please teach us that you are greater than all we leave behind.

Give us courage to say yes, not only with our lips, but with our lives. Free us from excuses. Strengthen our steps. Let us follow Jesus not just in spirit, but with action. Help us put our hands on the plow and do not look back.

Loving Father, we lift up those in our church family who are walking difficult roads. Some are facing illness, others uncertainty, and others grief. Be near to each person. Remind them that you walk with them always.

For those who are tired, give rest. Give faith in you, so help them put their burdens before your feet. For those who are lonely, send comfort. Surround them with your people. For those who feel lost, embrace them. Shine your light and let them see your glory.

For those whose hearts are heavy today, remind them that nothing is hidden from your sight and the you care form them deeply.

As your church, as your hands and feet, help us bear one another's burdens. Teach us to love not just in words, but in presence, prayers, and service. We entrust every need into your loving and caring hands, trusting your faithfulness and grace.
In Jesus' precious and powerful and gentle name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering:

According to the gospel of Luke, Jesus calls his disciples. Jesus teaches that we are not supposed to look back when you start the journey with Jesus Christ. What will be the expression of ours today to follow Jesus?

Let us give him our best in our daily lives. Let us give him what we have. Let us give him our love and passion. May God be glorified through our offering.

(BOP #457, Now thank we all our God Vs. 1)

Offering prayer:

Holy God, powerful God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and all kinds of our gifts. Use our offerings today as well as our talents you gave. So, in our daily lives, help us display your goodness and your glory. Through what we have, let us serve you and serve this world. Jesus, you are the Son of the living God. We will follow you. Help us. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 324 Great is thy faithfulness

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

Following Jesus is not always easy. We sometimes follow Jesus or chase Jesus out of interest. But, it doesn't last long. Only when we know the true value of Jesus Christ, we can still follow Jesus.

Is money or Jesus? Is family or Jesus? Is power or Jesus?

How much do you cherish Jesus?

Love Jesus. He is your life-Giver. He is your all in all. God gave his most precious for us. Know that love and have it in the centre of your 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.