

Sunday Worship on July 6, 2025

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Christine Tian)

Sunday Order of Worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 39 God of mercy, God of praise (Psalm 66)
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 777 Send me, Lord

We listen

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: 2 Kings 5:1-14
- Second reading: Psalm 66:1-9 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
- Sermon: **The joy of obedience**
- Hymn BOP 284 Revive your work, O Lord
- Prayer for the people

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 457 Now thank we all our God) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 763 To show by touch and word

We Serve

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

Responsive Call to Worship

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

We will sing to the glory of God with resounding praise.

Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!"

God has turned our mourning into dancing and clothed us with joy.

Let all the earth worship God and sing praises to God's holy name.

O Lord, our God, we will give thanks to you forever.

Come, let us worship God.

Praise song – BOP 39 God of mercy, God of grace (Psalm 66)

Prayer of Adoration

God of majesty and mercy, in creation you gave us all that we need to live and all that we can cherish. You came to us in Jesus Christ to show us the face of your love. You walk into our lives to meet us in the midst of joy and pain. Through the Holy Spirit, you speak words of wisdom to help us find our way. God in our midst, speak to us today in this time of worship. Speak the

words we need to hear so that we know you still walk with us in Jesus Christ. For we honour you, our Source, Saviour and Spirit of Life, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

Loving God, you send us into the world as ambassadors of your love and peace, yet too often we create discord and division. We serve our own interests first, ignoring those in need. We value our understanding of the world you love, and fail to listen to the stories of others. Forgive us for such self-centredness. Help us to be more faithful disciples of Jesus, eager to serve, willing to listen, glad to be of service in his name.

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 Apostle Paul declared that from now on, we regard no one from a human point of view. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Everything old has passed away, and behold, everything has become new! Thanks be to God that by God's mercy, we can all 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 777 Send me, Lord

Prayer for Children

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

- First reading: 2 Kings 5:1-14
- Second reading: Psalm 66:1-9 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

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

SERMON: The joy of obedience

Jesus calls us to a life of active obedience. It is not to be for success or power, but for the joy of walking faithfully with the mission of Jesus Christ. We are sent with purpose, presence, proclamation, and perseverance.

Let us take a look at the word of the Lord with the title The joy of obedience.

We live in a world that tells us joy comes from what we achieve, earn, or win. Success is measured in results. Likes on social media and promotions at work blind our eyes from our true

purposes. Numbers become our standard of a good life and the criteria of a joyful life. But, in Luke 10, Jesus invites us to discover a different kind of joy. It is the joy of obedience.

Jesus sends out 70 of his followers to prepare the way for his coming. They go, minister, return, and celebrate their success. But Jesus tells them something profound. “Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Their joy, and our joy, must be rooted not in what we do, but in who we are in Jesus Christ. And when we walk in obedience, even when it’s hard or unnoticed, we discover a joy deeper than success. This joy of walking faithfully with Jesus is the true joy our hearts long for. Let us walk through this story using 4 simple movements Jesus teaches us: Go, Stay, Speak, and Shake.

Jesus appoints 70 and sends them two by two into every town and place he himself was about to go. He sends them ahead of him. But, they were not alone. Two by two. Small, but they were sent in community. They were not without instructions. They had clear instructions. “The harvest is plentiful, but labourers are few.”

The mission is urgent. The world is ready, but the workers are few. That hasn’t changed since Jesus’ time. Still today, the opportunities for gospel love, kindness, and truth are everywhere. Jesus still sends us even today, whether you are pastors, missionaries, members, young or old, healthy or sick, working or retired. Jesus sends each and every one of us.

We are not just saved, but we are sent. We are sent to our neighbourhoods, our workplaces, our families. We are sent with purpose. It may feel small, but obedience in ordinary places is the very foundation where the Holy Spirit moves. Joy begins when we step out of comfort and into calling.

Jesus tells them, “Whatever house you enter, say ‘Peace to this house.’ ... Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide.”

That’s not the strategy of a quick evangelist trying to cover more ground. Jesus does not say, “Move quickly to the next opportunity.” He says, “Stay. Be present. Build relationships. Share peace.”

In other words, “Do not rush past people.” “Don’t chase greener pastures.” Don’t underestimate what God can do when you simply show up and stay faithful.

Obedience often looks like staying when we’d rather move on. Remaining in a friendship that’s hard. Serving in a role that doesn’t shine. Showing up even when no one claps.

Jesus calls us to be present with patience. That’s where joy is born.

Jesus says, “Cure the sick who are there and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”

The mission isn’t just kindness. It includes speaking. Jesus tells them to proclaim the nearness of the kingdom.

Sometimes, we are tempted to think, “If I just live a good life, that’s enough.” Of course, our actions matter. However, the gospel is a spoken message, too. Words of hope, peace, forgiveness, and truth. Words that tell people, “You are loved. There’s more in life. God is near.”

We don’t need fancy words. We need faithful words. Say the kingdom has come near because it has. Christ has come near to us. And he sends us to speak that same good news. Obedience means trusting God to speak through our ordinary words.

Jesus gives them one more instruction. If they are not welcomed, shake the dust off your feet. This is not bitterness. It’s freedom. It’s Jesus saying, “Don’t carry the rejection with you. Keep walking.”

Not everyone will welcome the message. Not everyone will applaud your obedience. But faithfulness does not require results or success. It requires courage.

Jesus also reminds us that we are not called to focus the treasure of the kingdom on those who refuse to receive it. As he said in Matthew 7:6, “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs.” This does not mean we judge others, but that we recognize when hearts are closed and trust God with the outcome.

Shake off fear. Shake off discouragement. Shake off perfectionism. Keep going. God is with you. There is joy in releasing outcomes to God and walking on with open hands.

The 70 returned rejoicing, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name!”

They were excited. And it’s understandable. They saw miracles! But Jesus gently redirects their focus. “Do not rejoice at this But rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Jesus reminds them and us that the source of our joy is not what we accomplish, but who we belong to. Not what happens around us, but what God has done within us.

When obedience is our joy, we are no longer tossed by success or failure. We are anchored in Christ. We are known. We are sent. We are loved.

So, what brings you joy?

Is this tied to circumstances? Or is it rooted in Christ?

Jesus invites you today to rediscover the joy of obedience.

Go – step out with purpose.

Stay – be faithfully present

Speak – share the nearness of God

Shake – release what you can’t control

And above all, rejoice, not in your performance, but in the fact that you are God’s. Rejoice that your names are written in heaven.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Praise song – BOP 294 Revive your work, O Lord

Prayer for the people:

Faithful God, you have called us to follow you. Not in our own strength, but in obedience, trust, and joy. We thank you for sending us, not as individuals alone, but as a community of disciples.

We pray for courage to go where you send us, even when the path is uncertain. We ask for patience to stay present faithfully with those you've placed in our lives. We seek boldness to speak of your love and nearness. And we ask for strength to shake off discouragement when the journey is difficult.

Remind us, Lord, that our greatest joy is not in our doing, but in our belonging. May your Holy Spirit fill us with peace, with joy, and with holy purpose.

Loving God, we lift before you those in our church family who are in need. There are people who are sick, who feel lost or alone, or who are grieving. Be near to each person. Bring healing to the weary, hope to the discouraged, and comfort to the brokenhearted. We pray especially for those facing difficult decisions. May they sense your presence and know your guidance and encouragement.

Heavenly Father, use us to be agents of your love. Help us be connected with intercessory prayers for one another in our community. Help us learn your heart. Help us have compassion and humility and love for others. Teach us to serve not for recognition, but from joy.

When our hands are weak, and our hearts are tired, lift us up again in your mercy. In Jesus' precious and powerful and gentle name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering:

God calls us. Before sending us out, God equips us. Remember, how many years the disciples stayed with Jesus? Three years. Trust God's goodness. He never asks us what we are incapable. With what we've received from God, let us participate in God's goodness at work in the world. So take heart. Whatever you give, give with confidence that God will use us and our gifts for the good purposes of the Gospel.

As we give our offerings, let us glorify him.
(BOP #457, *Now thank we all our God Vs. 1*)

Offering prayer:

Generous God, you have blessed our lives with gifts, both visible and invisible. We offer our gifts in gratitude, to build up your kingdom in the world. Bless all that we give to make a difference in the lives of others, for the sake of Christ, our Lord. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 763 To show by touch and word

Now, it is time for us to be sent to the world where God called us to be. God's purpose for us is to live with us. He wants to show us his goodness. He wants us to be immersed in his presence. So, we are finally overflowing. By then, we can finally step out of our

comfort zone. God sends us out. God wants us to present in this world with God's presence in our life. Display God in your surroundings. Speak what he's done in your life. That's good news. Share your gospel and faithfully walk with 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.