

## **Sunday Worship on July 13, 2025**

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Anne Neuman)

### **Sunday Order of Worship**

#### **We Gather**

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 321 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 648 I'm gonna live so God can use me

#### **We listen**

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Deuteronomy 30:9-14
- Second reading: Psalm 25:1-10 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Luke 10:25-37
- Sermon: **Who is my neighbour?**
- Hymn BOP 642 O Master, let me walk with thee
- Prayer for the people

#### **We Respond**

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 457 Now thank we all our God) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 376 Lord, the light of your love is shining

#### **We Serve**

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

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#### **Responsive Call to Worship**

Turn to God with confidence and expectation.

**In you, O God, we place our trust.**

Ask God to show us the road to follow.

**Lead us, O God, in your truth and teach us your way.**

Seek hope in the Lord who is our salvation.

**All day long we will put our hope in the God who saves us.**

**We will worship God in faith, hope and trust.**

**Praise song – BOP 321 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

**Prayer of Adoration**

God of all beginnings, we come today with praise on our lips and in our hearts. We stand in awe of all you have created: the vast expanse of a starry night and the tiny beauty of a raindrop together reflect your glory.

You have blessed creation with life and meaning.

Your love makes a beginning in us, too, O God, in each new life born into the world, in each new friendship formed, in each kindling attraction, in each kind word and act for neighbour or stranger.

We praise you, O God, for your love moving in the world around us, lived out in Jesus and by the Holy Spirit at work in us.

All praise and glory belong to you, Source, Saviour, and Spirit of Love, one God, now and always.

### **Prayer of confession (Unison)**

**God of loving kindness, Jesus called us to love you above all else, and our neighbour as ourselves. Yet we often fail to act in loving ways. We are distracted by our own needs, and forgetful of the needs of others. We let differences divide us and excuse ourselves from reaching out. Forgive us, O God. Create in us new hearts so we can live and love faithfully in Jesus' name. 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**

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, God's generous love reaches out to embrace us.

In Christ, we are forgiven and set free to begin again.

Let us give thanks for God's mercy and be at peace with God, with ourselves and each other.

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

**Praise song – BOP 648 I'm gonna live so God can use me**

**Prayer for Children**

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

- First reading: Deuteronomy 30:9-14
- Second reading: Psalm 25:1-10 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Luke 10:25-37

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

**SERMON: Who is my neighbour?**

Jesus redefines the question of “Who is my neighbour?” by showing that being a neighbour is not about identifying who deserves our love, but about embodying mercy for those in need, especially, the overlooked, the outcast, and the hurting.

In Luke 10, a religious expert stood to test Jesus. He asked, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus responded not with an answer, but with a question, “What is written in the Law?”

The man replied well, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind; and love your neighbour as yourself.”

Jesus said, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.”

But the man asked, desiring to justify himself, “And who is my neighbour?”

It is not just a question. It is a boundary.

He is asking, “How far does my love have to go?” “Who counts?”

Jesus does not define the term. Instead, he tells a story. In doing so, Jesus flips the question entirely.

A man is travelling down the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. He’s attacked, stripped, beaten, and left for dead. No name. No background. We don’t know whether this person is a Jewish or a Gentile. Just a broken human being.

This is the world we live in. People beaten down by violence, poverty, illness, injustice, loneliness, and despair.

We don't need to look for. Brokenness is not far away. It's around us, even within us too. The real question is this. "When we see brokenness, how will we respond?"

A priest came by. A pastor who teaches to help the needy saw the man in need and passed by. There could be excuses such as purity laws. He would be unclean till the evening. If he was to officiate the worship, he cannot become unclean by touching dead body. So, he just passed by a person who looked dead.

Then a Levite. It's like elders or "serious" church goers. He wants to attend worship service. Maybe he was bringing a sacrificial lamb. If he was stuck with this person who needed help, he might be late for the worship. If this person is dead, he could not participate the worship service because he would become unclean.

Religious people just passed by the needy. Maybe because of fear, purity laws, busy-ness, judgment. In their hearts, "Maybe he deserved it."

Religious and knowledgeable people. People who knew the word of the Lord. They probably taught the laws of God. They taught compassion, love, being merciful. But, they did not stop.

It is possible to be religious and still lack of mercy and love and compassion. To know all the right words, but avoid the inconvenient call of love.

Our self-reflection is very kind and loving and religious person, but our actual deeds do not match how we perceive our own being. I found myself being like this. There is a gap between what I think I am and what I actually live.

Then comes a Samaritan. To Jesus' audience, Samaritans were outsiders ethnically, theologically, and socially.

However, this outsider is the one who saw, stopped, and showed mercy. Everyone felt bad. But this Samaritan is the only one who not only felt bad, but actually acted out.

This Samaritan man got close to the man.

He treated wounds.

He lifted the man onto this animal.

He paid for his care, also he promised to take care of the extra cost.

This Samaritan crossed boundaries of religion, of culture, and of risk. He did not hesitate to do the common sense. If you see the needy, go and help. Love like this is costly, messy, and interrupting.

BUT, this is exactly what neighbourly love looks like.

Jesus asked, "Which of these three was a neighbour of the man?"

The expert in law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

He couldn't even say "the Samaritan."

Jesus responded, "Go and do likewise."

Jesus didn't answer the question, "Who is my neighbour?" He reframed it. "Are you being a neighbour?"

If we can find some loopholes, we would take the advantage of them. We would sort out whom we should help or not. We look for certain qualifications for our compassion. But Jesus teaches us to **be the kind of person who loves as God loves.**

We live on roads filled with the wounded. Some are visible, some hidden.

Who have you walked past? Where is Jesus calling you to stop, draw near, and offer mercy?

Being neighbour is not a label. It is a lifestyle. It is obedience to the teaching of Jesus. It is the way to follow Jesus. It is a commitment to love inconveniently, sacrificially, and without borders.

Jesus is the ultimate Good Samaritan. He found us beaten by sin and lifted us with mercy. Now, he invites us to do the same. He sends us to do the same. Let us take Jesus' teaching in our hearts and set the goal and live accordingly.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

**Praise song – BOP 642 O Master, let me walk with thee**

**Prayer for the people:**

Merciful God, you see every wound, every injustice, every person lying in the dust of despair. And you come near. You lift, you heal, and you restore.

Make us a people who don't pass by. Give us eyes to see the brokenness, hearts to feel compassion, and hands ready to act in love.

We confess where we've looked away. Forgive our indifference. Rekindle our courage to cross boundaries with grace. Empower us by your Holy Spirit to live as neighbours to those around us. Help us treat friends and strangers alike.

God of comfort and compassion, we pray for those among us who are suffering. We remember those who are physically hurting, emotionally weary, and spiritually dry.

For those burdened by grief or loneliness, may your presence be near. For those navigating change, confusion, or decisions, give peace and guidance. We pray for caregivers, for those who feel unseen, and for those discouraged by rejection or failure.

Surround us all with your mercy. Use us to be your hands and feet to carry your love to the wounded, to bind up the brokenhearted, to speak words of healing.

Strengthen our community to be a reflection of the Samaritan love of Christ. Help us. Guide us. Walk with us. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

**Invitation to the offering:**

God sent us Jesus Christ so that we would know God's great generosity and compassion for us. May the gifts we offer God bear witness to the saving power of this extravagant love in our lives.

As we give our offerings, let us glorify him.

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

**Offering prayer:**

God of the Samaritan's kindness, we offer our gifts in hope, trusting that you will bless them to bring such kindness to others in Jesus' name. Make of us 'good Samaritans' with the courage to be generous to neighbours and strangers for Christ's sake. Amen

**Song for the Journey – BOP 376 Lord, the light of your love is shining**

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

We are religious people. We think of ourselves as pretty good.

But sometimes, we come to realize that we're not as great as we thought.

We find ourselves beaten, broken, desperate.. even pathetic.

And to people like us, Jesus Christ came.

He saw us. He came to us. He lifted us up. He cared for us. He changed us. He gave us life. He filled us. He made us overflow.

And now, he invites us to be like him.

We sang, "Shine, Jesus, Shine."

May the love and goodness of Jesus Christ shine through our lives, so that world may see Jesus in us.

**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.