

Sunday Worship on August 31, 2025

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Gord Osborne)

Sunday Order of Worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 412 Come, let us sing to the Lord our song
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 434 For the beauty of the earth

We listen

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
- Second reading: Psalm 81:1. 10-16 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Jeremiah 2:3-14
- Sermon: **Where are you drinking from?**
- Hymn BOP 474 The love of God comes close
- Prayer for the people

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 457 Now thank we all our God) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 461 Be thou my vision

We Serve

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

Responsive Call to Worship

Sing aloud to God who is our strength!

Raise a shout of joy to the God of all generations!

For our God feeds us with the finest wheat;

with honey from the rock God will satisfy.

Let us worship the Lord our God,

For God has done great things for us, and so we bring God praise.

Praise song – BOP 412 Come, let us sing to the Lord our song

Prayer of Adoration

God of all generations, you are the Source of all life and the strength of our lives. You know us through and through. In Jesus Christ, you entered our lives and showed us how to live with hope and generosity.

Through the Holy Spirit, you nourish us each day to inspire acts of hospitality and kindness to those we meet.

As we worship you, fill us with your living water to refresh our faith, and make us a blessing to others as we serve you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Prayer of confession (Unison)

Welcoming God, we confess we too often fall short of the kindness and compassion we meet in Jesus. You have welcomed us like guests to a banquet, yet we find it hard to welcome a stranger in church. You have shown us what matters most in life, but we are distracted by worries, busy with things that really do not matter. Forgive us, O God. Teach us to honour you and those we meet in all we do and say, for the sake of Christ, our Lord. 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

While it is true that we have sinned and fallen short of God's hope for us, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's amazing love. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God, I say, in Jesus Christ our sin is forgiven. So be at peace with God, be at peace with yourself, and be at peace with one another.

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

Praise song – BOP 434 For the beauty of the earth

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

- First reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
- Second reading: Psalm 81:1, 10-16 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Jeremiah 2:4-13

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

Sermon: What are you drinking from?

We all know how good cold water tastes on a hot day. Imagine taking a walk with little children in the summer sun. They become cranky and tired and ask you to hold them. After 20 minutes of struggle and suffering, you finally came home. In the kitchen, you open the refrigerator and pour a glass of icy water. You drink it down, and your whole body feels refreshed.

Now, imagine the same situation. But instead of cold water, you are holding lukewarm, dusty water from an old bucket. You drink, but it doesn't help. You are still thirsty.

That's exactly the picture God paints in Jeremiah Chapter 2. He says his people turned away from him, the fountain of living water. And instead, they dug broken cisterns that could not hold water. They chose puddles over a spring.

So the question today is simple, but it goes deep.

Where are you drinking from?

It is a tragedy when we abandon God. God begins with almost a heartbroken question. **V5, "What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me?"**

It is a stunning question. God is saying, "What did I do wrong!? I brought you out of Egypt. I gave you a land. I never failed you. So why did you leave me?"

This is NOT the picture of an angry boss. It's the cry of a wounded lover. God had given them everything, and still they turned away.

And notice what they traded. **V11, "my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit."**

In other words, they gave up gold for garbage.

Let's be honest, don't we do the same?

God offers his presence, peace, his word, his Holy Spirit. But we get busy. We get distracted. Our Bibles are closed, our prayers are shallow, and our hearts are thirsty. We feel empty.

It's like walking away from Niagara Falls and saying, "I am going to drink from the muddy puddle instead."

Muddy puddle cannot provide refreshing water.

Broken cisterns cannot hold water.

V13, "[My people] have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water."

Cisterns were ancient water storage. It is a hole in the ground lined with plaster. They leaked. The water went stale. If you had a choice between a fresh spring and a cistern, what would you choose? I will choose fresh spring. 100%.

But, spiritually, we often pick cisterns. What does that look like in our day to day life?

We try to drink from the cistern of **career and success**. We think, "If I just get the promotion, then I will be happy." But it leaks. Success never fully satisfies.

We try to drink from the cistern of **money and possessions**. “If I just buy that house! If I just buy that car! If I possess what I want! Then my life will feel secure and happier.” But it leaks. There are always more things to want.

We also try to drink from the cistern of **pleasure or distraction**. Social media, entertainment, even unhealthy habits. They promise refreshment but leave us empty.

It’s like trying to quench our thirst with soda pop when we are thirsty in the heat. Sweet for a moment, but it doesn’t refresh us.

Let me ask you directly. Think about this.

“Where do you turn when you are tired, lonely, or anxious?”

That is your well. That is your cistern.

We all drink from something. Where do we drink from?

We think, “If I can just manage every detail of my life, then I’ll be okay.” But life slips through our fingers. Others drink from the cistern of people’s approval. “If everyone likes me, then I’ll be satisfied.”

BUT it leaks because you cannot be loved by every single person.

The truth is, that’s why we’re still thirsty. That’s why, even after buying, achieving, or controlling, we wake up with the same hunger and thirst inside.

Jesus picks up this theme in John 4, when Jesus says to the Samaritan woman. **John 4:14, “those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”**

Jesus is saying, “Stop sipping from puddles. I am the fountain. Drink from me.”

God himself is the fountain of living water. God doesn’t just provide water, but he himself IS the living water.

Jeremiah calls God the fountain of living waters. **Psalm 81 echoes, “Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it ... with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”**

Think of this image. Honey from the rock. Not just survival. It’s sweetness. Abundance. Fullness.

This is what God offers us in Christ.

In Jesus Christ, we have the forgiveness that doesn’t run dry, grace that doesn’t leak, and presence that never leaves us alone.

If God could bring water out of a rock in the desert, he can bring life to your dry soul today.

Place your hope in God. Drink from him.

Our life journey is constituted with daily choices. Where are you going to drink from? What is the foundation when you make choices?

Remind yourself our true and ultimate fountain of living water.

Each morning, do you drink first from the news feed or from Scripture?

When you're stressed out, do you drink from complaining and worry, or from prayer? When you feel empty, do you run to distractions, or to the God who fills?

This is what faith looks like. Stop digging new cisterns, but return to the fountain.

This is a simple prayer you can use as you start your day.

“Lord, I drink from you today.”

When you feel dry, open your Bible, even if just for 5 minutes.

And make SUNDAY WORSHIP a non-negotiable. This is a fountain moment where God fills his own people again. God shows his glory to his people and satisfies our souls when we come to his presence and seek him wholeheartedly.

Daily prayer, Bible reading, attending worship services are not extremely difficult to put in practice.

But, these small things build us up and refresh our souls like a cup of icy water in a hot day.

Although we turned away from God like Jeremiah chapter 2, God still invites us. **Isaiah 55:1,**
“Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.”

Where are you drinking from?

Are you sipping from cracked cisterns? Chasing success? Following money? Desiring approval from others? Seeking distractions?

OR are you coming to the fountain that never runs dry?

Are you seeking the grace of God in Jesus Christ?

Precious people of God, cisterns always leak. But the fountain flows forever. Today, open your mouth! Open your heart. Drink deeply. Let Jesus Christ, the fountain of living water, satisfy your soul.

This is the message of the Lord

Praise song – BOP 474 The love of God comes close

Prayer for the people:

Gracious God, you are the fountain of living waters, yet so often we run to broken cisterns that cannot satisfy. Forgive us for trusting success, money, or approval more than you. Today, we hear your voice again, inviting us to drink deeply from your grace through Jesus Christ, the spring of eternal life.

Refresh us this week by your Holy Spirit, and help us turn from empty wells to you, our true source of hope.

We pray for our congregation. Strengthen the weary, comfort the broken, and remind us all that in Jesus Christ we lack nothing.

We pray for our families and children. Bless parents with patience, children with joy and growth, and bring healing where there is hurt.

As a new school year begins, bless students with curiosity and courage, protect them from harm, and give teachers wisdom and strength. Fill their hearts with love and grace. Grant peace to parents as they guide and support their children.

We lift our community to your hands. Feed the hungry, befriend the lonely, and let our church be a place of living water for all who are thirsty. We pray for the world. Bring peace where there is conflict, bring justice where there is oppression, and grant hope where there is despair.

Lord, Jesus, refresh us when we are dry, fill us when we are empty, and remind us always that we are loved and called by you by our own names.

We love you and worship you. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering:

On this Labour Day weekend, we offer to God the fruit of our labour to support the redeeming work God has begun in the world. Give in hope and in trust that God will bring the hungry and the thirsty so that they might be satisfied in him. As we give our offerings, let us glorify him. *(BOP #457, Now thank we all our God Vs. 1)*

Offering prayer:

O God, bless the gifts we bring today, as well as the time, talent, and concern we will offer you this week. We trust that, through the power of your Holy Spirit, these gifts will accomplish more than we can ask or imagine. Bring your people to your presence and fill them with your living water. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 461 Be thou my vision

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

Where are you drinking from? Where is your go-to place when you are down? Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is waiting for us with open arms. He can fill us and he can satisfy us. Let us drink the living water from Jesus Christ.

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.