

## **Sunday Worship on September 7, 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 630 When we are living
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 411 Can a little child like me
- Prayer for children

#### **We listen**

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Luke 14:25-33
- Second reading: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Jeremiah 18:1-11
- Sermon: **Still on the wheel**
- Communion
- Hymn BOP 624 Bless are they
- Prayer for the people

#### **We Respond**

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 321 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty vs.1) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 650 He leadeth me

#### **We Serve**

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

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### **Responsive Call to Worship**

Joy comes to those who follow God's ways.

#### **We will follow the Lord with joyful hearts!**

Those who follow the Lord are like trees planted by the river, bearing fruit each season.

#### **May our lives be fruitful and blessed by God!**

Worship the Lord who leads us to joy and abundance.

#### **Let us worship God now and throughout all our days.**

### **Praise song – BOP 630 When we are living**

#### **Prayer of Adoration**

God of all creation, you have formed the world in beauty and filled it with creatures of your love and purpose. Each one declares your praise – the mountain states your majesty; the ripened field, your generosity.

Birds flying aloft sing of your freedom; the tiny ant works with your persistence. And what do we declare about you in our lives? We pray that our work will honour your justice and mercy; may our relationships speak of your love and compassion. So may we praise you, O God, not just in this hour of worship, but in all our waking and our working. Challenge us today to live out the praise we offer you through the grace of Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**Prayer of confession (Unison)**

**God of justice and mercy, we offer you our love and loyalty in worship yet we admit we do not live out that love and loyalty. We don't always act on our good intentions, we fail to keep our promises, we hurt each other, and then refuse to seek or offer forgiveness. People must look at us and wonder if this is what it means to follow Jesus. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to do better, for we ask this 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**

From now on, as the Apostle Paul declared, 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; see, everything has become new! Thanks be to God that we can make a new start this very day.

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

**Praise song – BOP 441 Can a little child like me**  
**Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)**

- First reading: Luke 14:25-33
- Second reading: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Jeremiah 18:1-11

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

**Sermon: Still on the wheel**

God called Jeremiah to the potter's house.

A potter sitting at a wheel, shaping clay. The wheel keeps spinning, the clay keeps wobbling, and the potter keeps pressing, steadying, reshaping until it takes form he likes.

This is where God says, **“God I not do with you as this potter does?”**

Is God finished with us? Are you the final products of God?

We are not finished yet. We are clay, and our God is the potter.

When Jeremiah went to the potter's house, the potter was not sitting back sipping coffee. He did not let the clay spin on its own. The potter was working. Hands-on. Active.

That's how God is with us. God is not distant. God is not detached. His hands are with us. Every spin of your life, God's hands are on you.

Very often, we feel like our life is spinning too fast. Maybe we feel dizzy from all the changes and situations. Raising kids is challenging. When you have a financial pressure, when our church struggles, when we have to face the uncertainty of tomorrow... We feel our life spinning. But, we need to remember that God is the one turning the wheel. His strong and almighty hands are with us.

**V4, "The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him."**

**"But the jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so he crushed it into a lump of clay again and started over." NLT**

The clay was ruined. Disfigured. Broken. Not working out. If that were me in art class, I'd probably make the shape and break it, make another shape and break again and repeat many many times.

Until we get something we like, we reshape clay.

Isn't this today's Jeremiah story? Isn't this our story?

We've all had moments when our lives cracked.

Broken relationships, a sin that we repeat, a decision that we regret, a dream we couldn't achieve...

We feel broken. We feel hopeless. But, God doesn't give us up. He remakes us. He reshapes us. He takes the brokenness and says, "I can still make something beautiful here."

**"God can still make beauty in me."** – please repeat after me.

Let us imagine. A child brings home a lumpy pottery project from school. The edges are not even, it wobbles, of course, it cannot hold water. It's ugly. But, what does the parent do? They smile. They give a child a big hug and say, "great job! I like it. Wow!"

Let's put it on the shelf. It's a beautiful work.

God does the same with us. He goes even further. God keeps shaping us until we reflect his image. And he's faithful and he does not give up.

This is the core of message of today. We are still on the wheel.

No one here is a finished product. Not me. Are you?

We are all in process.

We judge ourselves too quickly. Remember the flea experiment? When we put flea in 5 cm cup, 10 cm, and 15 cm cup. After a few days, we remove the cup, then the fleas only jumps 5 cm, 10 cm, and 15 cm.

We too put the maximum possibilities of our lives. How many cm is our life? Not only that, we judge others too. We say, “he’s not gonna change.” “She will always be like that.”

But, remember? We are still on the wheel. This means others are still on the wheel too. The Potter is still working. Don’t give up on your own self. Don’t give up on others. Because God hasn’t. God never will.

Being shaped. Being form. Experiencing changes. How do we feel? Is it like having massage? Comfortable? Relaxed?

Not so much.

Clay gets pressed, squeezed, stretched. It feels the pressure of the potter’s hands.

God allows pressures in our lives. We experience challenges, setbacks, even suffering. The purpose is clear. Not to destroy us, but to reshape us. To refine us. To make us into something stronger, purer, more useful.

In Jeremiah’s time, people of Israel turned away from God. They ran to broken cisterns, they trusted idols. Therefore, to guide his people to the right path, God was pressing them back onto the wheel. This is the only way to restore them.

What was God’s way to restore and reshape you?

After summer, we are coming to the table. We will have communion. At this table, as we remember the grace and love of God and what God had done for us, we are being reshaped. We are restoring our relationship with God.

We bring our cracks, and God fills them with mercy.

We bring our brokenness, and God pours his wholeness.

We bring our sin, and God forgives us.

The bread reminds us of Christ’s body, broken for us, that we might be made whole.

The cup reminds us of Christ’s blood, poured out, that we might be reshaped into his likeness.

Every time we come to communion, we place ourselves back on the wheel and say, **“Lord, shape me again.”**

Remember, we are still on the wheel. We are not done. We are still messy, or broken. But, that's okay because God hasn't finished his work on us. The Potter, our God, will never give up on his clay. His hands are steady. His heart is merciful. His plan for you is good.

Our responsive hymn today is Blessed are they.

Because God does not give up on us, we are blessed. Because God is still working on us and we are still on the wheel.

As we praise the Lord with this hymn, let us remind our soul whether we are in good situations or facing some challenges, because God is restoring us and reshaping us, we are blest and we will rejoice his presence in our lives.

Like the clay in the Potter's hands, God will make us beautiful.

This is the message of the Lord

### **Praise song – BOP 624 Bless are they**

### **Communion**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, this is the table of the Lord Jesus Christ. Here we come not as finished products, but as clay in the hands of the Potter. Here the broken are remade, the weary are renewed, the thirsty are satisfied. Come, just as you are. Come with your cracks, your burdens, and your hopes. For it is Christ who welcomes you and reshapes you with his grace.

At this table, we remember Jesus' death and resurrection. Here, God's love takes what is marred and reshapes it into something new. Here, God says, "You are still on the wheel, and I am not finished with you." Now, let us confess our faith together in the words of 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 to give you thanks and praise, O God, the Potter of our lives. From the dust of the earth, you shaped us and breathed into us the breath of life. Even when we became cracked and broken, you did not discard us but called us back, promising to reshape us in your mercy.

In Jesus Christ, the Living Water, you met us at our deepest thirst. In his broken body, you took our brokenness. In his poured-out blood, you gave us a new covenant. So with all who have been reshaped by your hand, with angels, saints, and witnesses of every age, we praise you saying:

**(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 mercy and grace, blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ. In him the marred vessels or our lives are made new. On the cross, he bore our sin. In the resurrection, he restored our hope. By his Spirit, he continued to reshape us day by day. So we remember his words, his hands, his love poured out for us, and we proclaim in mystery:

**P: Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

L: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. As we eat and drink, may we be reshaped into the likeness of Christ. Softened where we are hard, strengthened where we are weak, and filled with your grace to live as vessels of your mercy in this world. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour 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 for the people:**

Faithful God, you are the Potter, and we are the clay. You have formed us, guided us, and even in our weakness, you have never let us go. We thank you for Jesus Christ, whose body was broken and blood was poured out so that we might be remade and restored.

We lift before you our church family. Those who are weary, refresh them; those who are ill, heal them; those who feel forgotten, remind them of your love. We pray for our children and youth. As they grow, shape them with courage, kindness, and wisdom. We remember our community. For those who thirst for meaning, for those weighed down by poverty or loneliness, make us vessels of your compassion and love.

God is the strength of our lives. Be with us always. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

**Invitation to the offering:**

As we have been given so many gifts, let us return a portion of those gifts from God as the token of our confession that all we have belongs to Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

As we give our offerings, let us glorify him.

*(BOP #321, Praise to the Lord, the Almighty. Vs. 1)*

**Offering prayer:**

O God, we offer these gifts to you. Bless them and use them to heal and reshape the world you love with the Good News we celebrate in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Song for the Journey – BOP 650 He leadeth me**

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

We still have chance. We are still growing in God. So, do not judge yourself. Be patient with yourself. Be kind to yourself. And to others, let us tell them that they still have chance because God is taking care for them. Let us witness the works of God in each other's life. May God be praised and blessed.

**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.