

Sunday Worship on September 21, 2025

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

Sunday Order of Worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 384 O Breath of life, come sweeping through us
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 625 Seek ye first
- Prayer for children

We listen

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7
- Second reading: Psalm 113 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Luke 16:1-13
- Sermon: **Whose servant are you?**
- Hymn BOP 637 Take my life and let it be
- Prayer for the people

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 321 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty vs.1) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 570 I have decided to follow Jesus

We Serve

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

Responsive Call to Worship

Praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord!

From the rising of the sun to its setting, praise God.

We will bless God's holy name now and evermore.

The glory of the Lord is high above the heavens, but God raises up the poor and needy on the earth.

So we will sing God's praise.

Let us worship God.

Praise song – BOP 384 O Breath of life, come sweeping through us

Prayer of Adoration

God our Creator, you sustain your creation as the source of life for every precious thing. You have given us more than we could ever earn or deserve, and so we offer you our love and loyalty,

for without you, we would not be. Receive our worship this day, O God. Speak to us in the sounds and silence of this hour, and amaze us with your promise of new life revealed in Jesus Christ, and your power at work in us and among us through the Spirit.

Prayer of confession (Unison)

Generous God, you have enriched us with life worth living, but we confess we often squander your good gifts. We have wasted our time and energy, but held tightly to things we think we need. Forgive our foolish priorities and those times we overlooked the needs of others. Inspire us to live more generously, trusting your goodness to sustain us always. 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 in Christ, while it is true that we have squandered God's good gifts, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. Trust the mercy of God, and be at peace with God, with yourself, and 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 625 Seek ye first

Prayer for the children

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

- First reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7
- Second reading: Psalm 113 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Luke 16:1-13

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

Sermon: Whose servant are you?

Have you even had this kind of experience that you have two different bosses? One manager says one thing, and the other expects something completely different. Who do you listen to? It's not that common, but happens. It is a stressful situation, isn't it? Who would you listen to?

Jesus tells us that when it comes to our hearts, our time, and our money, we cannot serve two bosses. We have to choose.

So, let me ask, “Whose servant are you?”

Jesus gives us this strange parable about **a dishonest manager**. It feels confusing, but the point is clear. The way we live, the way we use resources, and the way we set priorities reveal who our real master is.

There is a manager and he's about to get fired. He quickly reduces debts of others, so that people will like him and welcome him later. Very strangely, the master praises him, not for cheating, but for being shrewd, forward-looking, being good at making practical judgment.

Here, Jesus is not saying that dishonest is good. But, **Jesus is teaching us to think ahead about the future that really matters.**

What is the future that really matters for us?

What about our eternity? We are here to prepare our eternal home.

In this parable, the dishonest manager planned for his future. Many believers forget to do the same for the kingdom of God. We spend hours planning retirement funds, college savings, vacations, and more. But, **how much time do we spend investing in eternity?**

V9, "And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it (money) is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes."

Jesus talks about **"true riches" versus "worldly wealth."**

Money is temporary, but how we use it is eternal.

If we cannot be trusted with little things, why would God trust us with big responsibilities? If you lend your friend \$20, but never mentions it and never pays it back, then would you lend the friend with \$1000?

You will lose \$1000. In the same way, God watches how we handle small responsibilities.

When you become a manager, most likely, you will be able to see the small details of the team members. If one team member is faithful, honest, and diligent in daily responsibilities, then you know that you can trust that person.

Daily responsibilities do not seem too great, but these small choices reveal who we really are.

When we are working, when we are parenting, when we are giving, when we are making relationships, when we are driving... How honest are we? How patient, kind, generous are we? We fathom others' capacity by how they take responsibilities in their day-to-day tasks.

Are we serving our own selves? Are we serving God through our daily lives?

V13, "You cannot serve God and wealth."

Jesus gets blunt. **This issue is not wealth itself, but worship. Money makes a great tool, but a terrible master.**

Rockefeller, one of the richest persons in history, was asked, **“How much money is enough?”**

What would you say? 1 million? 10 million? 30 million?

Rockefeller answered, **“Just a little bit more.”**

This is the trap. When money becomes our master, we never have enough. We never satisfy.

On the contrary, have you experienced freedom, peace, contentment, and joy? When? Did money bring you them all? Yes, certainly. But, was money a master or a tool?

When we serve money, it brings us anxiety, comparison, and greed. We want more and more...

Money and God. Which master gets more of your trust?

V10, “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.”

Serving God is not just about big decisions. It’s about daily directions. How we spend our money. How we treat people. How we give our time.

Is there any way we can prepare our eternity with what we have?

Think of a **GPS map**, Google Map or Waze. You can only have one direction at a time. If you stay, then GPS map waits until you need the next direction.

The map directs you to turn right. If you don’t turn right, then the map waits. God’s guidance could be the same. God does not give us multiple directions at the same time.

Also, have you had this experience when you go to a new area?

When I don’t know which direction I need to go?

Then, I just drive any direction. Then, the GPS tells me where to go. Make a U-turn, turn right or left or if I make a right choice, go straight.

If we are not clear what to do to prepare our eternity, then try different things. Be kind to others. Then, you will know the next step. Help the poor. Then, God will direct you the next step. Read the word of God, then God may speak to you.

Also, can you put two destinations at the same time?

You want to go to downtown Toronto and Newmarket at the same time. Does it make any sense?

Downtown is south from here and Newmarket is north from here. Two opposite directions.

We need to pick one, not two.

Whose servant are you?

Jesus does not ask it to condemn us, but to invite us into true freedom. Serving God does not mean too many rules and less joy. In fact, there's deeper joy. You will experience peace that money cannot buy. You can have purpose that possessions cannot give.

Today, choose our God for your Mater and say, **“Lord, I am your servant. My life, my money, my choices belong to you. Shape me into a faithful steward because you are my only Mater.”**

May God be your only Mater.

This is the message of the Lord

Praise song – BOP 637 Take my life and let it be

Prayer for the people:

God of love and grace, you have reminded us today that we cannot serve to masters. We confess that so often our hearts chase after security, wealth, and success, yet only you can give us peace, joy, and eternal hope. Teach us to be faithful with what we have, generous with what we hold, and devoted to you above all else. We offer our lives again into your hands.

God of mercy and truth, we come before you as your people, grateful that you are our one true Master. WE pray for your church, that we may be faithful stewards of your gospel in word and action. We pray for our families, that love may guide our homes and that our children may grow in wisdom and faith. We pray for community, for those burdened by debt, unemployment, or worry. Prove for their needs and show us how to share what we have. We pray for our world. Torn by greed and injustice. Teach leaders to serve with humility and compassion.

Lastly, we pray for ourselves. Free us from divided hearts and set our eyes on you, so that in all we do we may glorify you. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering:

In every generation, God calls us to participate in the world's healing and renewal. The gifts we offer will help touch lives with God's renewing grace. May our gifts to the Lord be useful tools in his hands.

As we give our offerings, let us glorify him.

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

Offering prayer:

We bring our gifts to you, O God, in gratitude for all you give us. Bless them and make them a source of healing for a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who sends us out in love. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 570 I have decided to follow Jesus

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

Money is important. But our eternity is more important. Although we don't feel it in our everyday life, through our lesson today, let us renew our focus and tune our heart to our true Master. In truth and obedience to God, may we experience true freedom.

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.