

## **Sunday Worship on October 26, 2025**

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Kevin Johnston)

### **Sunday Order of Worship**

#### **We Gather**

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 662 Those who wait on the Lord
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 449 Lord, listen to your children praying
- Prayer for children

#### **We listen**

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Psalm 65 (Refrain 1)
- Second reading: Joel 2:23-32
- Sermon: **The God who still pours out his Spirit**
- Praise song BOP 642 O Master, let me walk with thee
- Prayer for the people

#### **We Respond**

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 321 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty vs.1) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 712 Arise, your light is come

#### **We Serve**

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

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### **Responsive Call to Worship**

From the routines of work and school, home and play,

**we have come to worship God.**

With the weight of the world heavy on our hearts,

**we have come to worship God.**

In the midst of our fears and our hopes,

**we offer our prayer and praise in Jesus' name.**

For we trust in God's power and presence,

**so let us worship God with heart, mind, soul and strength.**

### **Praise song – BOP 662 Those who wait on the Lord**

#### **Prayer of Adoration**

Creating God, the mountains you raised reflect your strength and majesty. Sunrise and sunset frame the day with your light and joy.

Fields bursting with grain and trees coloured with autumn glory sing of your steadfast love. Pictures from the depth of space give a glimpse of your infinity, yet in Christ you have walked the humble earth.

You alone are worthy of our praise. You alone give us hope.

Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of Life, we praise you, and join our voices to those of every precious thing to wonder at your mystery and majesty.

**Prayer of confession (Unison)**

**Merciful God, you created human beings with gifts of intelligence and imagination. Yet we confess we often use these gifts to exploit your creation and put others in their place. So often we think that we are great when we are small. Or we claim smallness when you set a challenge before us. We convince ourselves that our sin is not nearly as great as others, yet, every sin offends your purpose for us. Forgive us, we pray, and grant us a truer picture of ourselves.**

**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**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, God is gracious. Christ has promised that those who humble themselves will be exalted. Having confessed our sin, let us trust the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and we are to set free to make a new start. Thanks be to God.

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

**Praise song – BOP 449 Lord, listen to your children praying**

**Prayer for the children**

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

- First reading: Psalm 65 (Refrain 1)
- Second reading: Joel 2:23-32

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

**Sermon: The God who still pours out his Spirit**

Thank you all for the last few weeks of vacation. I had a wonderful time of rest. I was able to visit Vancouver and host friends and show them around Toronto and Niagara Falls.

Also, thank you very much for taking good care of worship service last week.

And we are glad to have the special committee from the Presbytery can come and join our worship today. Welcome and thank you for taking your time for us.

Today, we are going to share the word of the Lord with the title “The God who still pours out his Spirit.”

Today, the people of Israel is facing “**Locust years.**” Everything is dried up. Locusts had eaten their crops, their land, and their hope.

To them, through prophet Joel, God speaks the prophecy.

**V23, “O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain.”**

God is giving them the promise of hope, restoration, renewal, and his Holy Spirit. From where everything seems lost, God is starting a new work.

**Can you relate this dry or desperate season of life?**

In our life, there might be some moments of hardship, difficulties, and dryness. If you are one of the Israelites going through Locust years, how would you feel about the promise of God for rain? Glad and grateful... But, we have to see what’s going to happen to the crops. What if the locusts come again? We would be thankful, but we might doubt.

Knowing what we are like, God does not stop with the promise of rain only although it is the sign of forgiveness.

**V25, “I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.”**

Because Israel turned away from God, Locust years was God’s punishment. Sending rain is the beginning of God’s forgiveness. God not only forgives but also restores. He gives back years that seemed wasted – these are the years we thought were gone forever.

God’s restoration of the lost years teaches us that God remembers every prayer, every act of service, every small moment of faith. In his mind, nothing was wasted. God counts them all.

When we look back as a church, we remember the challenges. But we also remember God’s silent faithfulness through them all. There were locust years. Maybe we are still going through it. However, we never stopped worshipping God. We are still here. We are still here in the presence of God. There are even some new faces. This alone is the grace of God.

**V27, “You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.”**

It is not just a promise of food or rain, but it is a promise of presence.

God says, **“My people shall never again be put to shame.”**

The Spirit of God doesn't depend on how big a church is. The Spirit shows up his presence wherever hearts are open.

Sometimes, or many times, we think, “we are too small.”

But, in God's kingdom, small is often where God does his best work.

When Jesus chose his disciples, he didn't start with the crowd. He started with twelve.

So, what do you think? Is the Spirit of God here with us now?

Of course, in our singing, in our praying, in our loving, in every moment we show up faithfully, God is present.

**V28-29, “I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.”**

This is God's vision for what's next. **The Spirit will be poured out – not trickled – but POURED!**

And on whom? Not just few people, not just young or the strong. BUT ALL PEOPLE. Sons and daughters, young and old, even slaves.

The future God is painting is not one of decline, but of overflow.

A Spirit-filled community where everyone has a voice, where dreams and visions are not just for the few, but for all who call on the name of the Lord.

The future of our church does not depend on us alone, but it depends on the God who still pours out his Spirit.

The message of Joel is not a story of endings. It's a story of new beginnings after loss.

God restores. God revives. God renews. And God still pours out his Spirit.

So today, as we look back with gratitude, and look ahead with trust, we can confess God's faithfulness. God's been here with us all along. God is still working and God is not finished with us yet.

May God open our hearts and minds and all our senses, so that we experience the works of God in our lives and in our church.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

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

**Prayer for the people:**

Gracious and faithful God, you have reminded us today that you are the God who still pours out your Spirit. Even in our dry and difficult seasons, you never leave us empty. Thank you for your promise of rain, your gift of restoration, and your presence among us.

Help us see your hand at work in our lives and in our church. Renew our hearts with your Holy Spirit, so that we may dream new dreams, see new visions, and walk in hope for what you are doing next.

Loving God, you are the Giver of life, the Restorer of what is broken, and the Healer of every heart. We thank you for being present with us today. For our church, even though we are small, help us be rich in faith. Pour out your Holy Spirit again upon this community, so that joy may rise where there was sorrow, and courage where there was fear.

We lift up those who are weary. Strengthen them with your peace. For those who carry burdens, grant them rest in your grace. For those seeking wisdom, shine your light upon their search.

Bless our presbytery visitors who walk with us in discernment; may our conversations be filled with wisdom, humility, and unity.

Heavenly Father, restore what has been lost in our hearts, our families, and our ministry. Let your Spirit bring new life to this congregation, so that through us, your love may flow into this neighbourhood and beyond. We trust that you are not finished with us yet. We place our church, our future, and our lives into your faithful hands. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

**Invitation to the offering:**

God still pours out His Spirit — not in the past tense, but here and now. As we have received grace, let us respond with gratitude. What we give today is a sign of our trust that God will continue to renew his church and bless his people through our shared offering of love. As we give our offerings, let us glorify him.

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

**Offering prayer:**

Gracious God, you have poured out your Holy Spirit upon us and filled our hearts with new hope. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and faith. Use them to bring life, healing, and renewal to your church and to the world you love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**Song for the Journey – BOP 712 Arise, your light is come**

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

When life feels empty or uncertain, remember the faithful God, who restored Israel's dry land, still pours out his Spirit today upon his people. He breathes new life into weary hearts and renews his church with hope. So, let us go with faith, be open to the Spirit's work within us and through us, trusting that God is not finished with us yet.

**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.